



LEGALIZE IT

Pot 'legalization 2.0': Social equity becomes a key question

In this May 5, 2015 photo, marijuana plants grow at a Minnesota Medical Solutions greenhouse in Otsego, Minn.

Associated Press

By JENNIFER PELTZ
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Advocates for legalizing marijuana have long argued it would strike a blow for

social justice after a decades-long drug war that disproportionately targeted minority and poor communities.

But social equity has been

both a sticking point and selling point this year in New York and New Jersey, among other states weighing whether to join the 10 that allow recreational use

of pot. Complicating the law-making process, sometimes even among supporters, are questions about how best to erase marijuana

convictions and ensure that people who were arrested for pot benefit from legal marijuana markets.

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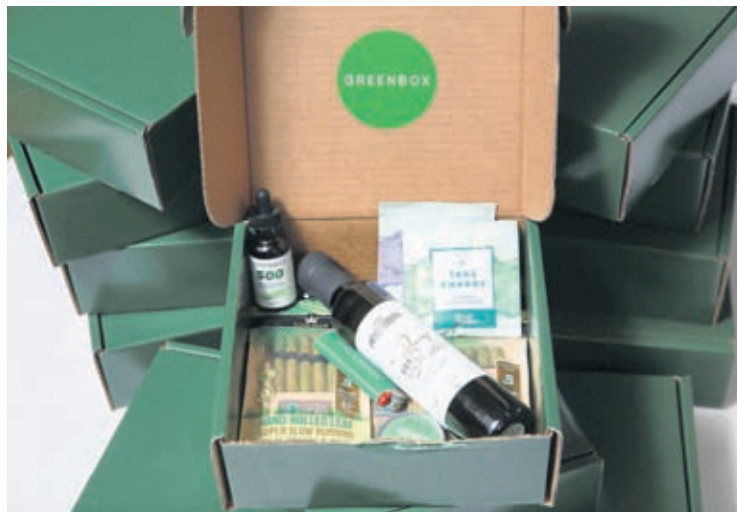
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In this April 26, 2019 photo, a sample Greenbox filled with CBD and hemp-based products is shown on a table in Atlanta, Ga. New York entrepreneurs Andrew Farrior and Ethan Jackson plan to launch Greenbox.NYC as a subscription and delivery business for hemp and other legal cannabis-related products.

Associated Press

LEGALIZATION 2.0

Continued from Front

Advocates say legalization elsewhere hasn't done enough to achieve those goals. Critics maintain legal pot is even accelerating inequality as the drug becomes big business for companies generally run by white men.

"We're at the stage of marijuana reform 2.0," said Douglas Berman, an Ohio State University law professor who follows marijuana policy. The conversation, he said, has shifted from just being about legalization to, "which track should we make sure we head down?"

Questions about conviction-clearing and other issues contributed to delaying legislative votes on legalizing recreational pot that had been expected earlier this spring in New York and New Jersey. The states' Democratic governors and legislative leaders support legalization but

confronted differences even within their own party. The New Jersey measure fizzled this week, when the state Senate president said he'll aim for a 2020 referendum while pursuing separate legislation to expand medical marijuana and expunge low-level pot convictions.

Meanwhile, some New York lawmakers said they'll soon unveil an updated proposal to legalize pot and foster racial and economic equity. Activists remain hopeful the state can set an example.

"Social justice is what's going to propel us, not what's going to hold us back," said Cassandra Frederique, the New York director for the pro-legalization Drug Policy Alliance.

Federal data shows similar percentages of white and black people use marijuana. But the arrest rate for blacks is higher, according to reports by the American Civil Liberties Union and

others.

Legalization of recreational pot in 10 states and the District of Columbia, and medical pot in two-thirds of the states, hasn't eliminated the gaps. In Colorado, for instance, a state report found arrests were fewer but the rate remained higher among blacks five years after a 2012 vote for legalization.

Meanwhile, the emerging marijuana industry is very white, according to the limited data available.

"It's obviously a problem," said Morgan Fox of the National Cannabis Industry Association, which has helped craft suggestions for social equity legislation. Another industry group, the Cannabis Trade Federation, this week announced plans to craft a diversity and equity policy in conjunction with national NAACP officials and other civil-rights advocates.

Some would-be minority entrepreneurs have been caught in a cannabis Catch-22, unable to work in a legal pot business because of a past conviction. Others struggle to raise start-up money in an expensive industry that banks are leery about entering because of the federal government's prohibition on pot.

"We're not going to have much time to make a space in the market for ourselves," said Jason Ortiz, vice president of the Minority Cannabis Business Association.

Marijuana got Ortiz arrested as a teenager, but now he hopes to start a business if recreational pot

becomes legal in Connecticut, where he lives.

Some states and cities have started post-legalization initiatives to expunge criminal records and open doors in the cannabis business for people with pot convictions. California, for instance, passed a sweeping expungement law last year affecting hundreds of thousands of drug offenders.

New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker has proposed a national legalization measure that includes expungements and a community "reinvestment" fund, and several of his fellow Democratic senators and 2020 presidential primary contenders have signed on.

Some veterans of early state legalization campaigns have reckoned with their limitations.

"We were overly cautious at the time, looking back," said Art Way, the Drug Policy Alliance's director in Colorado. "But it didn't feel that way" when legalizing marijuana and ending many arrests were unprecedented goals in themselves.

He's been fighting to make Colorado's cannabis industry more accessible to people with drug convictions and entrepreneurs of modest means.

Opponents, too, are looking at how legalization has played out. They say it shows authorizing pot is no way to help minorities.

"The social justice issue is a big front" for states and big business to make money off marijuana, said New Jersey Legislative Black Caucus Chairman Ronald Rice, a Democratic senator from

Newark and former police officer. He supports ending criminal penalties for marijuana but not legalizing recreational use.

"I know what social justice looks like," Rice says. "I also know when people are being used."

He doesn't foresee pot shops enhancing neighborhoods where drugs have been a wellspring of problems. And he's skeptical that, even with special incentives, residents would reap the profits in an industry already infused with big money.

New York Assemblywoman Crystal Peoples-Stokes agrees legalizing marijuana isn't a panacea for minority communities. But the Assembly's first African-American majority leader is championing a recreational-pot proposal that's currently being revised.

"It will not end racism. But it is a crucial step in the right direction," Peoples-Stokes, a Buffalo Democrat, recently wrote in Newsweek.

As an aspiring marijuana businessman in New York, Andrew Farrior is following the legalization debate and its talk of social equity. Farrior, who is black, is intrigued by the possibility of incentives for entrepreneurs like him but not confident such plans would translate into action. Meanwhile, he and co-founder Ethan Jackson are plowing ahead with plans to launch Greenbox.NYC as a subscription and delivery business for hemp and other legal cannabis-related products. "We're ready to take what the market gives us," Farrior said. □

Report: 2 New Mexico counties among top oil producers

HOBBS, N.M. (AP) — Two New Mexico counties remain among the top oil-producing counties in the U.S., according to new federal numbers.

Data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration shows that Lea County was the No. 2 oil-producing county in January behind North Dakota's McKenzie County. The Hobbs News-Sun report ed.

Lea County produced 14.6 million barrels of oil in January while McKenzie County

which produced 17.3 million barrels, the report said. Lea County had more than twice the number of operating rigs as McKenzie County.

Steve Vierck, the outgoing CEO and president of the Economic Development Corporation of Lea County, was pleased to hear the news.

"Our production has roughly tripled in the last five years," Vierck said. "The county produces over half the state's oil and the state

is No. 3. It really reflects not only how much oil production there is, but how much growth there has been in oil production to move up the chart as fast as Lea County has."

Meanwhile, New Mexico's Eddy County was listed as the No. 6 top oil-producing county. It produced 10 million barrels during the same month. In November, a group of major oil and gas companies with plays in the Permian Basin, a portion of which is the Delaware Ba-

sin that straddles the New Mexico-Texas border including the southern half of Lea County, announced the formation of an energy alliance, collectively committing more than \$100 million over the next several years to spur additional private-sector investment in the region.

The 18 major oil companies that comprise the Permian Strategic Partnership said the Permian Basin is an oil-producing superpower, becoming one of the most

strategically important oil-producing regions in the world.

The coalition of companies said it intends to address infrastructure challenges and strengthen communities across West Texas and southeast New Mexico. They said building new roads, recruiting new doctors and teachers and developing new neighborhoods will require years of work, substantial resources and sustained cooperation among many entities. □

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Spring Flooding disrupts farm shipments on the Mississippi River

By MARGERY A. BECK

Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Normally this time of year, huge barges can be seen chugging up the Mississippi River, carrying millions of tons of grain to market and bringing agriculture-related products to farmers in the Midwest for the new growing season. But there's not much barge traffic this year.

That's because historic spring flooding that swamped and tainted farmland, also left parts of the Mississippi closed for business.

The river, which runs nearly 2,350 miles (3,782 kilometers) from Minnesota's Lake Itasca to the Gulf of Mexico, is a main conduit of shipping everything from agriculture products and construction material to petroleum and coal. The troubles on the Mississippi also have affected shipping on the waterways that feed into it, including the Missouri River.

The interruption is hitting an agriculture industry that's already suffering from a plethora of ills, including the Trump administration's trade disputes that have helped drive down commodity prices.

"You've got a perfect storm here," said Kenneth Hartman Jr., who grows corn, soybeans and wheat just south of Waterloo, Illinois. "It looks bad for us."

Like other farmers in more than a dozen states in the Mississippi River basin, Hart-

man would normally be sending soybeans, corn and other grain harvested last fall down the river, where it would eventually be exported — likely to China. Meanwhile, shipments of fertilizer that normally travel up the river to communities from St. Louis to St. Paul, Minnesota, haven't made it through.

The inability to get the grain down the river has exacerbated a shortage of space for those products.

"You have elevators that aren't even taking grain right now," Hartman said. "So that's causing issues as far as selling our grain in a timely manner."

Many of the locks and dams on the Mississippi that closed due to flooding that started in March have reopened, but the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers doesn't expect the river to be fully unimpeded until possibly June.

Even if the locks were open, "many of these barges wouldn't be able to get here anyway," said Sam Heilig, a Corps spokeswoman at Rock Island, Illinois. "Because the water's so high, there's not enough clearance to get under some of the bridges."

For now, it's impossible to put a number on how much the interruption has cost shippers, farmers and manufacturers. But Debra Calhoun, spokeswoman for the Washington-based advocacy group Waterways Council, said there's no doubt it's having an im-

pact.

On average, nearly 31 tons (28 metric tons) of goods and commodities are shipped on the upper Mississippi River from March through May, according to a five-year average gauged by the Corps' Waterborne Commerce Statistics Center. The biggest slice of that, at nearly 11 million tons (10 million metric tons), is grain, followed by coal, sand and gravel and chemicals and petroleum products. Annually,



In this Tuesday, May 14, 2019 photo, empty barges are moored on the Mississippi River in St. Paul, Minn., as spring flooding interrupts shipments on the river.

Associated Press

about \$250 million in domestic goods are shipped on the Mississippi, according to the center.

The Missouri River has re-

mained mostly navigable right up until it meets the Mississippi River at St. Louis, said James Rudy with the Corps' Kansas City office. □



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APNewsBreak: Schumer calls for probe of Chinese rail tech



In this May 14, 2019 photo, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., speaks to reporters at the Capitol in Washington.

Associated Press

By **MICHAEL BALSAMO**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate's top Democrat is calling on the federal government to step in and in-

vestigate whether a plan for new subway cars in New York City designed by a Chinese state-owned company could pose a threat to national security.

Sen. Charles Schumer of New York said in a statement to The Associated Press on Sunday that he's asked the Commerce Department to conduct a "top-to-bottom review" after CRRC, one of the world's largest train makers, won a design contest for new subway cars that would include "modern train control technology."

The company hasn't won a contract in New York City, which has America's biggest transit system, but it has been awarded contracts in recent years for new subway cars in Los Angeles, Chicago, Boston and Philadelphia.

In announcing the contest winners last year, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, which operates

the subway system, said CRRC had proposed investing \$50 million of its own money to develop the new subway cars. The contest was designed to bring out new ideas for future projects but did not lead to any contracts for new subway cars and the MTA is not currently purchasing any new cars.

But in the last few years, China has pushed to dominate the U.S. rail car market, a multibillion-dollar industry. CRRC is also believed to be pursuing a \$500 million contract with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority in Washington, D.C.

Security experts and members of Congress have raised the alarm about CRRC because it is owned by the Chinese government, warning of prior cyberthreats and hacking attacks linked to Chinese intelligence officials. They fear allowing the company to install technology in America's rail system could potentially expose it to cyberespionage and sabotage. Schumer's call for an investigation comes amid rising tensions between the U.S. and China after trade talks between the two nations broke up earlier this month without an agreement. Days ago, President Donald Trump signed an executive order to declare a national economic emergency that empowered the government to ban American telecommunications companies from installing foreign-made equipment and technology that could pose a threat to national security.

"The MTA has robust, multilayered and vigorously enforced safety and security standards, but we support efforts of government agencies to bolster

that work," spokesman Max Young said.

A spokesman for CRRC Sifang America — the company's arm in Chicago — said a majority of the components used in its new rail cars come from U.S. companies and said concerns about spying or malware are misplaced. The rail cars meet specific requirements set by the transit agencies, the manufacturer doesn't control the cyber components it installs and it is "not possible" for the company to implant malware in the system, he said.

"There is no evidence of a passenger railcar manufacturer, including CRRC, installing any type of new technology that could intentionally open passenger railcars to cyberthreats or pose a threat to commuters and national security," spokesman Dave Smolensky said. "CRRC is eager to address any concerns Senator Schumer has and we welcome an inquiry regarding our U.S. operations."

Legislation has been introduced in both the House and Senate that, if passed, would prevent federal funds from being used for rail projects involving Chinese companies.

"Given what we know about how cyberwarfare works, and recent attacks that have hit transportation and infrastructure hubs across the country, the Department of Commerce must give the green light and thoroughly check any proposals or work China's CRRC does on behalf of the New York subway system, including our signals, Wi-Fi and more," Schumer said the statement to AP.

In 2017, hackers attacked the Sacramento transit system and demanded a ransom in cryptocurrency. □



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Hundreds protest Alabama's abortion ban at state capitol

By KIM CHANDLER

Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP)

— Hundreds of demonstrators marched to the Alabama Capitol on Sunday to protest the state's newly approved abortion ban, chanting "my body, my choice!" and "vote them out!"

The demonstration came days after Gov. Kay Ivey signed the most stringent abortion law in the nation—making performing an abortion a felony in nearly all cases unless necessary for the mother's health. The law provides no exception for rape and incest.

"Banning abortion does not stop abortion. It stops safe abortion," said Staci Fox, CEO and president of Planned Parenthood Southeast, addressing the cheering crowd outside the Alabama Capitol.

Alabama is part of a wave of conservative states seeking to mount new legal challenges to Roe v. Wade, the 1973 landmark Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion nationwide. Governors in Kentucky, Mississippi, Ohio and Georgia have approved bans on abortion once a fetal heartbeat is detected, which can happen as early as the sixth week of pregnancy.

None of the laws has actually taken effect, and all are expected to be blocked by the courts as the legal challenges play out with an ultimate eye on the Supreme Court.

Marchers on Sunday said the measures have energized supporters of legalized abortion, and they say they are digging in for a legal and political fight. Along the route they took, the protesters passed by scattered counterdemonstrators raising signs against abortion.

Two speakers at the rally on the Capitol steps shared their stories of having an abortion, including a woman who came out of the crowd to describe the abortion she had after be-

ing raped at a party at age 18.

Carrying an orange sign with a coat hanger and the caption "No Never Again," 69-year-old Deborah Hall of Montgomery said she remembers life before Roe and can't believe the push to return there.

"I had friends who had illegal abortions and barely survived," said Hall, who for a time ran a clinic in Montgomery that provided abortion, birth control and other services.

"I still cannot believe it. It's really a scary time for everybody," she said of the push to overturn Roe.

Amanda Reyes, who runs Yellowhammer Fund, a nonprofit that provides funding to help low-income women obtain abortions, said donations have begun streaming in since passage of the Alabama bill.

Groups this week paid for a small plane carrying a banner "Abortion is Okay!" to circle the Capitol and the Governor's Mansion.

The Alabama law would make it a felony, punishable by up to 99 years or life in prison to perform an abortion. There would be no punishment for the woman receiving the abortion.

But the protest outside the Capitol Sunday comes in a state where a majority of voters recently agreed to put anti-abortion language in the Alabama Constitution. Fifty-nine % of state voters in November approved the constitutional amendment saying the state recognizes the rights of the "unborn."

"To the bill's many supporters, this legislation stands as a powerful testament to Alabamians' deeply held belief that every life is precious and that every life is a sacred gift from God," Ivey said in a statement after signing the ban into law.

The Alabama law has also come under criticism by some conservatives who have expressed discomfort by the lack of exceptions for rape and incest.



Kelly Thompson stands in front of the Alabama Capitol to protest a law passed last week making abortion a felony in nearly all cases with no exceptions for cases of rape or incest, Sunday, May 19, 2019, in Montgomery, Ala.

Associated Press

President Donald Trump, while not mentioning Alabama's law, wrote in a weekend tweet that he is strongly "pro-life" but favors exceptions.

"As most people know, and for those who would like to know, I am strongly Pro-Life, with the three exceptions - Rape, Incest and protecting the Life of the mother

- the same position taken by Ronald Reagan," Trump wrote in a series of tweets. Rep. Terri Collins, the sponsor of the Alabama law, said the purpose is to challenge Roe and added that Alabama lawmakers can come back and add exemptions if states regain control of abortion access. □

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Tribes, environmentalists battle copper mine in Arizona

By ANITA SNOW
Associated Press

SONOITA, Ariz. (AP) — Scenic State Highway 83 gently curves through southeastern Arizona's wine country, past waves of blond grass dotted with orange-tipped ocotillo plants before the dark Santa Rita Mountains loom into view.

The Milepost 44 pullout offers a panorama of the range in the Coronado National Forest where a Canadian firm wants to carve out a massive copper mine near Tucson. The \$1.9 billion Rosemont Mine, at a half-mile deep and a mile wide, would sprawl across federal, state and private land, leaving a waste pile the height of skyscraper.

Native American tribes and environmental groups have sued to stop Hudbay Minerals Inc. of Toronto, arguing its mine could desecrate sacred, ancestral lands and dry up wells and waterways while ravaging habitat for endangered jaguar and other species. Last week, they asked a federal judge to prevent the project from proceeding until the lawsuits are decided.

"I pray to our Creator every morning that things will work out," said Austin Nunez, chairman of the Tohono O'odham's San Xavier District, a piece of tribal land just south of Tucson. "Our ancestors' remains are there, along with archaeological sites, including a ball court. We cannot risk any further harm to our ancestral heritage."

The Tucson and state chambers of commerce are Rosemont cheerleaders, noting the project will immediately create 500 jobs and pour \$16 billion into the local economy over 20 years.

The fight comes amid a



This photo taken Monday, May 12, 2019, off Arizona scenic state Highway 83 shows the eastern slope of the Santa Rita Mountains where Canadian firm Hudbay Minerals Inc. plans an open pit copper mine.

Associated Press

larger battle across the West over using public lands for mining.

The Trump administration in late 2017 slashed about 85% of Utah's Bear Ears National Monument to allow for mining claims. New Mexico tribal leaders have pressured U.S. officials to ban oil and gas exploration near the remnants of an ancient Pueblo civilization at Chaco Culture National Historical Park. And conservationists fret over plans to reopen a gold mine in California's Castle Mountains National Monument, home to ancient rock art and a Joshua tree forest.

"You could go to virtually every state and find a push by big corporations to grab resources before it's too late," said Richard White, a historian of the American West at Stanford University. "It's a resurrection of these extractive industries that were so much a part of the Old West."

Arizona produces about two-thirds of U.S. copper for wiring and other electronics, generating about \$5.38 billion in 2017, according to the Arizona Mining Association. "Mining in Arizona represents 60,000 jobs," said Amber Smith, president and CEO of the Tucson Metro Chamber of Commerce. She is confident Hudbay will mitigate any potential problems by building extra roadways and employing technology to recycle water used in the mining process. Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry spokesman Garrick Taylor said Rosemont would be among the biggest construction projects in Arizona history. "Its impacts will be measured in the billions of dollars," he said.

Responding to questions in writing, Hudbay told The Associated Press that delaying the project would result in "significant financial

costs" and "we're proposing in the short term to move forward on aspects that don't fall under the litigation."

The company said the current project was the result of a dozen years of review and "it's designed intelligently and in accordance with public and policy priorities." It has told Tucson officials the mine would not harm water quality or affect supplies.

Still, environmentalists worry about the impacts on the Santa Rita Mountains, where white-tailed deer and black bear, bobcats and the occasional cougar roam among the Apache pines and Douglas firs. Numerous kinds of hummingbirds and woodland warblers fly through Madera Canyon, among the world's premier bird-watching spots.

Randy Serraglio, a conservation advocate with the Tucson-based Center for

Biological Diversity, predicted ore trucks would rumble down a scenic highway built in 1927 that stretches some 50 miles (80 kilometers) from Interstate 10 to the tourist hotspot of Sonoita.

"It's going to look like a nuclear bomb was set off," he said.

Winery owner Todd Bostock worries Rosemont could injure a tourism industry that includes boutique lodging focused on wine and the region's natural beauty.

"The mine will have a direct, negative and permanent impact on our business," said Bostock, whose Dos Cabezas winery annually produces some 5,000 cases of dry red, rosé and white wine. "They are gambling with our investment and our livelihood."

Rosemont detractors also point to the yawning Lavender Pit, a former open pit copper mine outside Bisbee that still scars the landscape 45 years after ending operations.

Serraglio's group, along with Save the Scenic Santa Ritas, the Arizona Mining Reform Coalition and the Arizona Grand Canyon Chapter of the Sierra Club this year sued to stop Rosemont, as did the Tohono O'odham Nation, the Pascua Yaqui Tribe and the Hopi Tribe.

The environmental law firm Earthjustice filed the recent request for an injunction to stop Hudbay from revving up its bulldozers. U.S. District Court Judge James A. Soto has said he hopes to rule on the first three suits by summer's end before tackling two more recent ones filed over a Clean Water Act permit granted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and a mine operations plan approved by the U.S. Forest Service. □

Speaker stuns 2019 Morehouse grads, to pay off student debt

By ERRIN HAINES WHACK
AP National Writer

A billionaire technology investor stunned the entire graduating class at Morehouse College when he announced at their commencement Sunday that he would pay off their student loans — estimated at up to \$40 million.

Robert F. Smith, this year's commencement speaker, made the announcement while addressing nearly 400 graduating seniors of the all-male historically black college in Atlanta. Smith, who is black, is the Founder and CEO of Vista Equity Partners, a private equity firm that invests in software, data, and technology-driven companies.

"On behalf of the eight generations of my family that have been in this country, we're gonna put a little fuel in your bus," the investor and philanthropist told graduates in his morning address. "This is my class, 2019. And my family is making a grant to eliminate their student loans." The announcement immediately drew stunned looks from faculty and students alike. Then the graduates broke into the biggest cheers of the morning and stood up, applauding. Morehouse said it is the single largest gift to the college.

Smith, who received an honorary doctorate from Morehouse during the ceremony, had already announced a \$1.5 million gift to the school. The student debt for the class of 2019 is estimated to be as much as \$40 million though no immediate total had been calculated yet.

Smith said he expected the recipients to "pay it forward" and said he hoped

that "every class has the same opportunity going forward."

"Because we are enough to take care of our own community," Smith said. "We are enough to ensure that we have all the opportunities of the American dream. And we will show it to each other through our actions and through our words and through our deeds."

In the weeks before graduating from Morehouse on Sunday, 22-year-old finance major Aaron Mitchom drew up a spreadsheet to calculate how long it would take him to pay back his \$200,000 in student loans — 25 years at half his monthly salary, per his calculations.

In an instant, that number vanished. Mitchom, sitting in the crowd, wept.

"I can delete that spreadsheet," he said in an interview after the commencement. "I don't have to live off of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. I was shocked. My heart dropped. We all cried. In the moment it was like a burden had been taken off."

His mother, Tina Mitchom, was also shocked. Eight family members, including Mitchom's 76-year-old grandmother, took turns over four years co-signing on the loans that got him across the finish line.

"It takes a village," she said. "It now means he can start paying it forward and start closing this gap a lot sooner, giving back to the college and thinking about a succession plan" for his younger siblings.

Morehouse College president David A. Thomas said the gift would have a profound effect on the students' futures. "Many of my students are interested

in going into teaching, for example, but leave with an amount of student debt that makes that untenable," Thomas said in an interview. "In some ways, it was a liberation gift for these young men that just opened up their choices." □



Robert F. Smith, left, laughs with David Thomas, center, and actress Angela Bassett at Morehouse College on Sunday, May 19, 2019, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

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UN tells Italy proposed decree violates migrants' rights

By NICOLE WINFIELD
Associated Press

ROME (AP) — The Italian interior ministry vowed Sunday to press ahead with a new decree formalizing the closure of Italian ports to aid groups that rescue migrants, even after U.N. human rights investigators said it violated international law.

Ministry officials said the security decree was "necessary and urgent" and was expected to be approved at a Cabinet meeting Monday.

In a May 15 letter to Italy's government released Saturday, the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights urged Italy to withdraw the decree, calling it "yet another political attempt to criminalize search and rescue operations."

The decree "further intensifies the climate of hostility and xenophobia against migrants," said the letter, which was signed by several U.N. human rights rapporteurs.

It was issued as a ship carry-



In this Wednesday April 17, 2019 file photo, The Proactiva's Open Arms rescue boat sits docked in Barcelona, Spain.

Associated Press

ing more than 40 migrants from the German aid group Sea-Watch remained off the island of Lampedusa waiting for a port to disembark its passengers. Sea-Watch said it had flouted Italy's ban and entered Italian territorial waters on Saturday for humanitarian reasons.

Interior Minister Matteo Salvini, a hard-line populist, proposed the decree before the European Parliament elections this week,

where nationalist, anti-migrant parties are hoping to make strong gains. Salvini's League has soared in popularity in part because of his hard-line migration policy, which has involved boosting the Libyan coast guard's ability to rescue migrants and bring them back.

Among other provisions, the decree leaves it to the interior minister to limit or prohibit entry into Italian territorial waters any ships

for public security reasons. It foresees fines of up to 5,500 euros (\$6,145) for each migrant transported. The U.N. letter says the measures would violate migrants' human rights, which are enshrined in U.N. conventions that Italy has signed. It said Italy is obliged to rescue migrants in distress and can't impede others from doing so. And it says that Libya can't be considered a safe port for migrants rescued at sea, particularly after the recent spike in fighting.

In a statement late Sunday, the Italian foreign ministry said the letter carried no juridical weight and suggested it was based on imprecise information. It noted that since Jan. 1, 2018, Italy has received eight such letters, whereas the U.S. has received 30, Britain 16 and France 12.

Interior ministry officials told journalists in a statement Sunday that Turkey and North Korea similarly punish border violations and that Italy has long had fines in

its legal code, which have merely been updated.

"The hope is that the authoritative U.N. dedicates its energies to the humanitarian emergency in Venezuela rather than engage in electoral campaigning in Italy," they said.

Meanwhile, British and French authorities have stopped 61 migrants who tried to cross the English Channel in five small boats over the weekend.

The British Home Office said 52 migrants on four boats were intercepted Saturday and Sunday off the Kent Coast and handed to immigration officials. The migrants said they were from Iraq and Iran.

The French maritime authority for the Channel and North Sea said a patrol ship spotted a boat carrying nine migrants Sunday off the coast of Cape of Gris-Nez. The nine were suffering light hypothermia and were handed over to border police in Calais.

Several of the migrants were children. □



People form a heart shape during a pro-Europe event dubbed "All for Europe" outside the government headquarters in Bucharest, Romania, Sunday, May 19, 2019.

Associated Press

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — Tens of thousands of demonstrators opposed to right-wing populism and nationalism took to the streets Sunday in a number of European cities before

May 23-26 elections to the European Parliament. Marches in Germany were held under the banner of "One Europe for Everyone: Your Voice Against Nationalism" in cities including Ber-

Pro-EU rallies draw tens of thousands before elections

lin, Cologne, Leipzig, Frankfurt, Munich and Hamburg. Organizers from more than 70 groups support the European Union, but also urge changes in migration policy such as support for refugee rescue missions in the Mediterranean Sea.

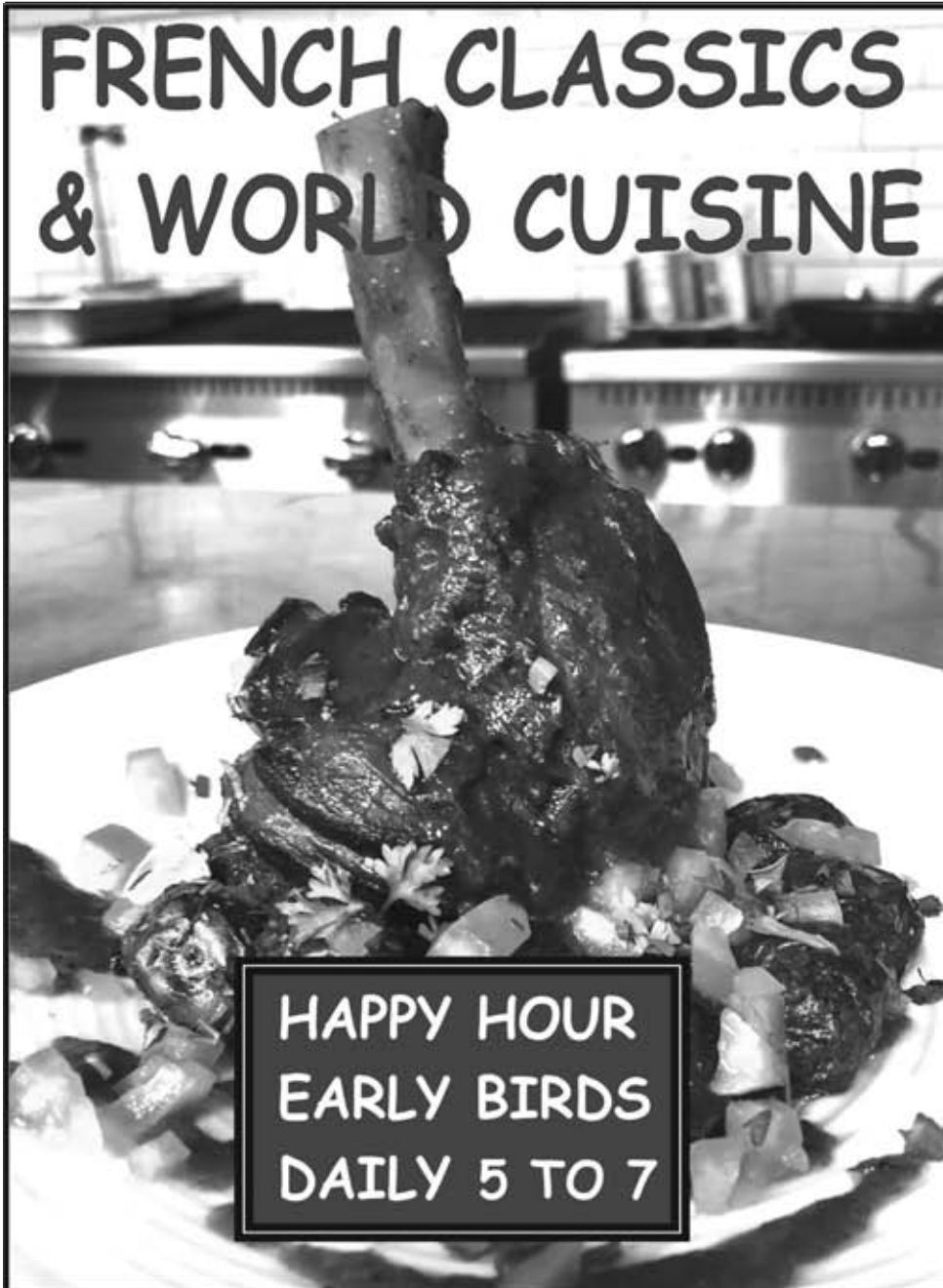
Other gatherings under the slogan "No to Hate, Yes to Change" were planned in Budapest, Genoa, Utrecht, Warsaw, Bucharest and other cities.

In Bucharest, thousands turned out at Victoria

Square, and the crowd formed a heart with the message: "Romania loves Europe."

"We want to tell them that their vote matters and that it's very important to go out and vote, to express their selection and to show Europe that Romania loves Europe," rally organizer Catalina Hoparteanu said. The dpa news agency said organizers reported 20,000 protesters in Berlin, while police estimated 10,000 in Munich, 14,000 in Frankfurt,

and 10,000 in Hamburg. The 751-seat European Parliament has limited powers but the poll is being seen as a test of strength both by right-wing, populist and nationalist groups who want curbs on immigration and more authority for national governments on the one hand, and on the other by center-left and center-left mainstream parties who support the EU as a bulwark of cooperation among its 28 member states, rule of law and democracy. □



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Swiss voters approve tighter gun laws, lining up with the EU

By JAMEY KEATEN

GENEVA (AP) — Swiss voters on Sunday approved a measure to tighten the Alpine nation's gun laws, bringing the country in line with many of its European partners despite the objections of local gun owners, official results showed. The Federal Chancellery said provisional results showed nearly 64% of voters nationwide agreed to align with European Union firearms rules adopted two years ago after deadly attacks in France, Belgium, Germany and Britain.

The vote was part of Switzerland's regular referendums that give citizens a direct say in policymaking. It had stoked passions in a country with long, proud traditions of gun ownership and sport and target shooting. Switzerland, unlike many other European na-

tions, allows veterans of its obligatory military service for men to take home their service weapons after tours of duty.

The Swiss proposal, among other things, requires regular training on the use of firearms, special waivers to own some semi-automatic weapons and serial number tracking system for key parts of some guns. Gun owners would have to register any weapons not already registered within three years, and keep a registry of their gun collections.

Supporters of the measure, who included the Swiss parliament and executive branch, said similar measures adopted by the EU after deadly extremist attacks are needed to ensure strong police cooperation and economic ties with Switzerland's partners in Eu-

rope's Schengen visa-free travel zone. They insisted it will not block law-abiding citizens from obtaining legal guns, but would simply do more to track them.

Switzerland is not an EU member, but it is in the Schengen zone.

Opponents insisted the proposal would violate Switzerland's constitution and do little to fight extremism or crime. They said the weapons used in recent attacks in Europe weren't obtained legally. They argued the proposal cracks down mainly on lawful gun owners in Switzerland and rams through what they see as the latest diktat from Brussels.

Jean-Luc Addor, a populist Swiss People's Party lawmaker from the southwestern Valais region, said adopting the EU directive would be "unjust, freedom-



Meeting rooms and a poster of the committee against the EU gun laws and policies, prior to the committee's meeting in Burgdorf, Switzerland, Sunday, May 19, 2019.

Associated Press

killing, useless, dangerous, and above all, anti-Swiss."

"With no effect on the fight against terrorism, it will only hit honest, law-abiding citizens who possess legal weapons," he wrote on his website. "It's the epitome of injustice."

Carmelo Lagana, project manager for foreign trade at economiesuisse, the country's top business federation, insisted Switzerland would suffer if Swiss police

couldn't continue to have access to Schengen-zone databases. He also said the country had an important say in negotiations with the European Union.

"It is Switzerland, as a member state, that has participated at every level the work to modify this European directive and it was exactly able to introduce some exceptions to preserve Swiss shooting traditions," he said. □

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Rocket attack hits near US Embassy in Baghdad's Green Zone

By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA
and BASSEM MROUE

BAGHDAD (AP) — A rocket was fired into the Iraqi capital's heavily fortified Green Zone Sunday night, landing less than a mile from the sprawling U.S. Embassy, an Iraqi military spokesman said.

The apparent attack, which Iraq's state-run news agency said did not cause any casualties, came amid heightened tensions across the Persian Gulf, after the White House ordered warships and bombers to the region earlier this month to counter an alleged, unexplained threat from Iran. The U.S. also has ordered nonessential staff out of its diplomatic posts in Iraq.

It was the first such attack since September, when three mortar shells landed in an abandoned lot inside the Green Zone.

No one claimed responsibility for the attack that took place after sunset when many Baghdad residents were indoors breaking their fast during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

Associated Press reporters on the east side of the Tigris River, opposite the Green Zone, heard an explosion, after which alert sirens sounded briefly in Baghdad.

Iraqi military spokesman Brig. Gen. Yahya Rasoul told The Associated Press that a Katyusha rocket fell near the statue of the Unknown Soldier, less than a mile from the U.S. Embassy. He said the military was investigating the cause but that the rocket was believed to have been fired from east Baghdad. The area is home to Iran-



In this Friday, May 17, 2019, photo released by the U.S. Navy, the amphibious assault ship USS Kearsarge sails in front of the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier in the Arabian Sea.

Associated Press

backed Shiite militias. Shortly afterward the rocket launcher was discovered by security forces in the eastern neighborhood of Wihda, according to a security official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media. The official also said the roads leading to the Green Zone were closed briefly for security reasons before they were reopened as normal.

Iraq's state-run news agency said a Katyusha rocket crashed inside the Green Zone without causing any

casualties. The U.S. military confirmed an explosion in the zone without saying what caused it, but said there were no American or coalition casualties. As tensions escalate between the U.S. and Iran, there have been concerns that Baghdad could once again get caught in the middle, just as it is on the path to recovery. The country hosts more than 5,000 U.S. troops, and is home to powerful Iranian-backed militias, some of whom want those U.S. forces to leave.

American forces withdrew

from Iraq in 2011 but returned in 2014 at the invitation of Iraq to help battle the Islamic State group after it seized vast areas in the north and west of the country, including Iraq's second-largest city, Mosul. A U.S.-led coalition provided crucial air support as Iraqi forces regrouped and drove IS out in a costly three-year campaign. Iranian-backed militias fought alongside U.S.-backed Iraqi troops against IS, gaining outsized influence and power.

Now, amid an escalating conflict between the U.S.

and Iran, Iraq is once again vulnerable to becoming caught up in the power play. An attack targeting U.S. interests in Iraq would be detrimental to the country's recent efforts at recovering and reclaiming its status in the Arab world.

On May 8, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo made a previously unannounced trip to the Iraqi capital following the abrupt cancellation of a visit to Germany, and told Iraqi intelligence that the United States had been picking up intelligence that Iran is threatening American interests in the Middle East, although he offered no details according to two Iraqi officials.

A few days later, as U.S.-Iranian tensions continued to rise, the State Department ordered all non-essential, non-emergency government staff to leave the country.

Employees of energy giant ExxonMobil have also begun evacuating from an oil field in the southern Iraqi province of Basra.

On Sunday, Iraqi Oil Minister Thamer al-Ghadban said in a statement that he sent a letter to ExxonMobil asking for clarifications over the evacuation, saying the evacuation was because of "political tensions in the region" and not related to security.

He added that the evacuation of the oil giant's foreign employees was "unacceptable and unjustified." Al-Ghadban said he would be holding a meeting with ExxonMobil executives this week over the evacuation, adding that their departure was "temporary." □



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Sudan's military council resumes talks with protesters

By OMAR AKOUR and SAMY MAGDY

Associated Press

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP)

— Sudan's ruling military council is meeting with protesters on Sunday to discuss the country's political transition after talks were halted for three days while roads were cleared outside the main sit-in in the capital, Khartoum.

The two sides have held several rounds of talks since the military overthrew President Omar al-Bashir last month, ending his 30-year reign after four months of mass protests and sit-ins, which are still underway. The deputy head of the military council, Gen. Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo, better known as Hemedti, meanwhile said late Saturday that security forces have arrested those behind an attack on the protesters last week that killed at least five people, including an army officer. Both the military and the protesters had blamed the attack on al-Bashir loyalists.

"The assailants who opened fire (on protesters) have been caught. Their confessions will be broadcast on TV," said Dagalo, who heads the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces. He hailed the Forces for the Declaration of Freedom and Change, which represents the protesters, for their role in al-Bashir's military overthrow on April 11. "We want the democracy they are talking about. We want a real democracy, fair and free elections. Whoever the Sudanese choose will rule," he said. The negotiations were suspended Wednesday, just hours after the military and the protesters announced they had agreed on the makeup of an interim parliament and a Cabinet for the transitional period, which is to last three years. The military council had called for the roads outside the sit-in in front of the military's headquarters in Khartoum to be opened. The protesters appear to have agreed to the demand,

as the roads were cleared without incident on Thursday. The protesters also agreed to open the railway that crosses the area of the sit-in for five hours a day. The generals and the protesters remain divided on what role the military should have in the transition to civilian rule. Sunday's talks are expected to focus on the makeup of the sovereign council, which would guide the nation through the transition.

The Forces for the Declaration of Freedom and Change said it insists on "limited military representation" in a sovereign council led by civilians. Saudi Arabia meanwhile announced on Sunday that it had deposited \$250 million into Sudan's central bank, part of a package of \$3 billion which Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates pledged after al-Bashir's ouster to shore up the economy. Saudi Arabia and the UAE had jointly paid \$500 million to the central bank on April 21. □

In this April 30, 2019 file photo, Gen. Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, the deputy head of the military council, second right, speaks at a press conference in Khartoum, Sudan.

Associated Press

2 Malta soldiers charged with race crimes in migrant death

VALLETTA, Malta (AP) — Two Maltese soldiers have pleaded not guilty to charges they participated in a racially-motivated, fatal drive-by shooting of a migrant from Ivory Coast. The two men, Lorin Scicluna and Francesco Fenech, were also charged Sunday with the April 6 attempted murder of two other men

from Guinea and Gambia, who were seriously injured in the attack. The death of Ivorian Lassana Cisse is believed to be Malta's first racially motivated slaying amid Europe's current debate over migration. The charges, which include racial hatred and committing a racially motivated crime, carry a maximum

of life in prison. Migration is a key political issue for the Mediterranean island nation, particularly ahead of European Parliament elections this week. Maltese political leaders and Catholic Church officials have been speaking out against growing hate speech against migrants, particularly on social media. □



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Vast gasoline lines form in oil-rich Venezuela

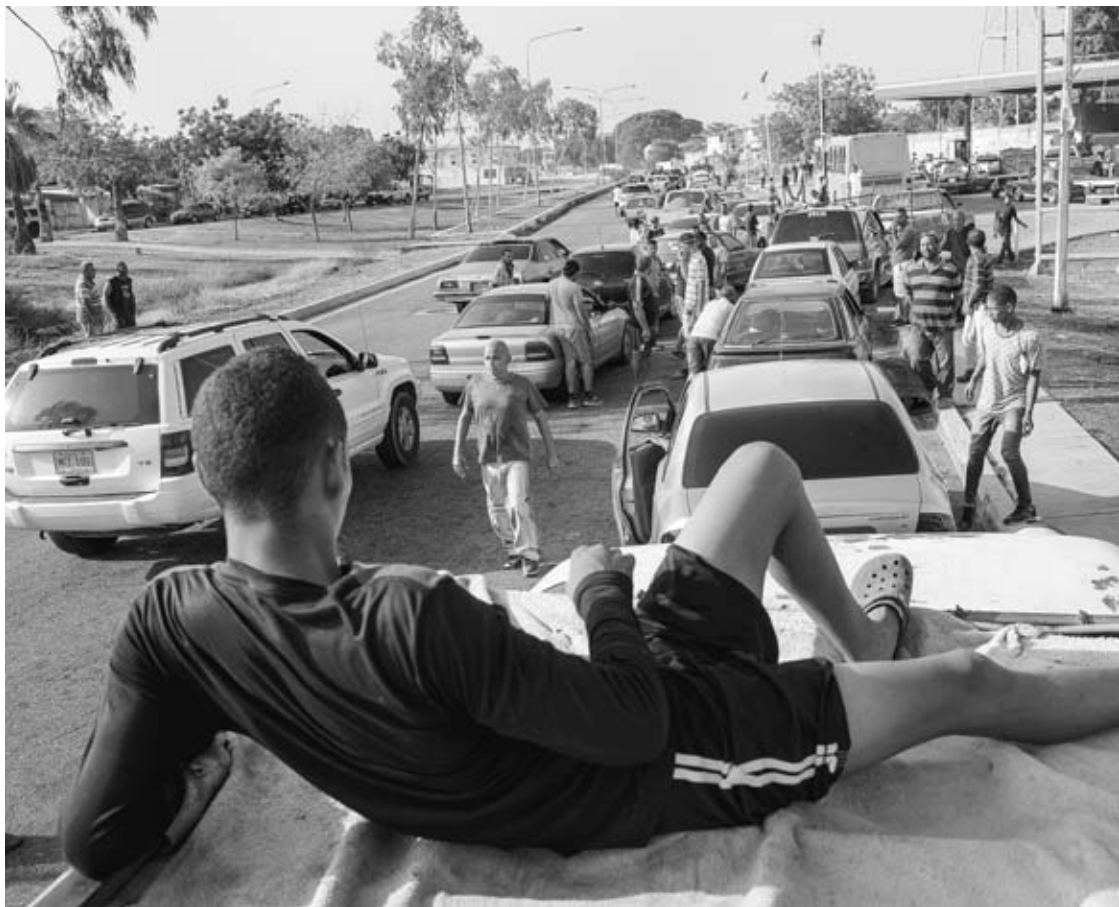
MARACAIBO, Venezuela (AP) — U.S. sanctions on oil-rich Venezuela appear to be taking hold, resulting in mile-long lines for fuel in the South American nation's second-largest city, Maracaibo.

Some drivers said they'd had to wait almost 24 hours to fuel up, and people have been grabbing cat-naps on the hoods of cars or in truck beds.

Nearing empty and stuck in line, infectious diseases doctor Yoli Urdaneta said she couldn't make her shift to treat patients.

"I've spent four days trying to get gasoline," Urdaneta said. "But I couldn't."

A satellite cruising over Maracaibo on Thursday captured pictures of cars lined up for a mile (1.6 kilometers) through the city to the pumps, according to by Maxar Technologies, a U.S.-based space technology company.



People line the street with their vehicles as they wait to fill up with gas at a fuel station, top right, in Cabimas, Venezuela, Wednesday, May 15, 2019.

Associated Press

based subsidiary Citgo, depriving officials of an estimated \$11 billion in hard currency from exports this year. U.S. officials say this cash flow long bankrolled what they call Maduro's "dictatorship."

Sanctions also put the squeeze on Venezuela access to diluents needed to thin its tar-like heavy crude so it can be piped over 100 miles (160 kilometers) from the field to be turned into gasoline.

And the political stalemate shows few signs of drawing near its end.

In a recent flurry of diplomatic activity aimed at peacefully solving Venezuela's crisis, European officials said they held intensive meetings over two days in Caracas with key players.

At about the same time, Maduro's government and the opposition sent representatives to talks in Norway. Officials engaged in both efforts reported no breakthroughs.

The panic over shortages has crept into the capital, Caracas, leading to moderately long lines for the last three days at many stations. Across the country in Maracaibo, angry drivers lined up complaining that police were profiting off their frustrations. Drivers said officers overseeing the lines allowed some to pay the equivalent of \$3.60 — more than half of the monthly minimum wage — to cut into a shorter line while others waited to fill up their tank with subsidized fuel that costs less than a penny.

José Eustaquio Pérez, 65, said he took the offer.

"I'm too old and I'm not in the mood to wait in this long line," he said. "I don't feel good, so I paid it to get out of here." □

4 Americans, 1 Canadian die in small plane crash in Honduras



In this photo released by the Honduras Fire Department, firefighters and men work at the crash site of a plane that fell into the Atlantic in Roatan, Bay Island, Honduras, Saturday, May 18, 2019.

Associated Press

By **FREDDY CUEVAS**
Associated Press
TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP) — Four Americans and a Canadian pilot were killed when a small plane went down off the coast of Roatan island in Honduras, officials said Sunday. Armed Forces spokesman Jose Domingo Meza con-

firmed the nationalities of those who died in Saturday's crash. The Piper Cherokee Six plummeted into the Atlantic shortly after takeoff from the popular tourist destination of Roatan en route to the port of Trujillo. The military said in a statement that rescue boats

with police divers and firemen recovered four bodies within minutes of the crash, and transported another to a hospital, where he died shortly after of internal injuries.

The U.S. State Department also confirmed the deaths of four U.S. citizens and Global Affairs Canada confirmed that a Canadian also had died. They did not release names.

Honduran authorities identified the pilot as Patrick Forseth, a Canadian national who developed tourism projects in the Trujillo Bay area.

Forseth was involved in a legal dispute with Afro-indigenous Hondurans who accused him of trying to develop their ancestral lands into vacation properties for international tourists. Forseth defended his company in a 2017 statement, saying it had purchased the land in 2013 and had made several attempts to reach an amicable resolution. □

Russ Dallen, a Miami-based partner at the brokerage firm Caracas Capital Markets, said Sunday that stiff U.S. sanctions on top of decaying refineries has begun to hit home.

Venezuela doesn't have the cash to import key ingredients to keep up production in a country with the world's largest oil reserves, said Dallen, who estimated that the state run oil-firm PDVSA is producing 10 to 15% of its capacity.

"It's all coming together into a toxic brew," Dallen said. "That is really having a devastating effect."

The Trump administration this year sanctioned PDVSA in an effort aimed at driving President Nicolás Maduro from office, while throwing its support behind opposition leader Juan Guadío.

The U.S. sanctions essentially cut off Maduro's government from its Houston-



LOCAL



The Central Bank of Aruba holds the official launch of the new 2019 series florin banknotes



ORANJESTAD — After more than 7 years of intense preparation, last Friday Centrale Bank van Aruba (CBA) held the official launch of the new 2019 series florin banknotes. During this event, the President of the CBA, Mrs. Jane Semeleer, gave a brief presentation on the journey of the CBA towards realizing the new 2019 series florin banknotes. Afterwards, Mrs. Miriam Gonzalez, Executive Director, and Mrs. Penelope Tromp-Gomez, Division Manager, elaborated on the themes chosen for the new 2019 series florin banknotes, as well as the security features contained therein.

During this journey, the CBA worked in close cooperation with several local artists, various local and international experts from central banks and private sector consultants, as well as the internationally renowned banknote producer Crane Currency. The CBA expressed gratitude and presented a small token of appreciation to those present.

Hereafter Mrs. Semeleer invited Mrs. Evelyn Wever-Croes, Prime Minister of Aruba, and Mrs. Xiomara Ruiz-Maduro, Minister of Finance, Economic Affairs, and Culture, to jointly unveil the designs of the new 2019 series florin banknotes. The main theme of these banknotes is “Life in Aruba”, containing elements of the Aruban flora, fauna, cultural heritage, monuments, and landmarks. Apart from the very colorful designs, these banknotes also contain the most advanced security features available on the market.

With the introduction of the 2019 banknote series, the CBA aims to maintain confidence in the florin and contribute in promoting the uniqueness and beauty of Aruba’s flora, fauna, cultural heritage, monuments, and landmarks. For future generations to be able to appreciate this as well, it is of utmost importance to continue to promote public awareness for the adequate preservation and conservation hereof.

The timeline for the emission of the new 2019 series florin banknotes is as follows:

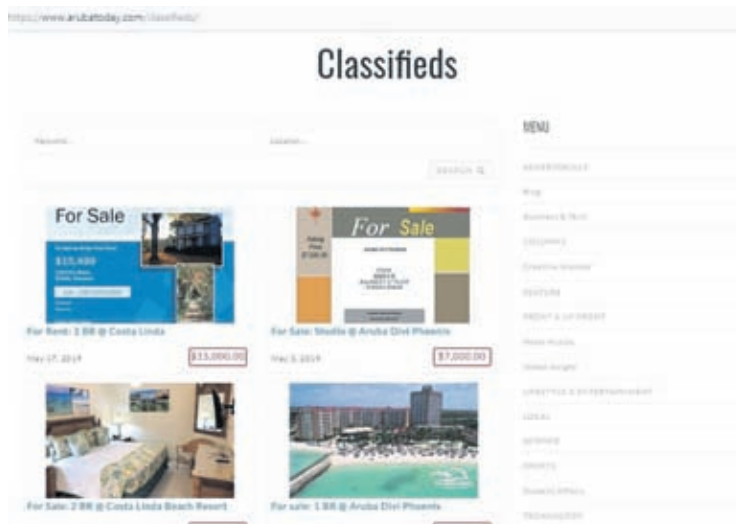
- June 3, 2019
Official emission of the new 2019 series florin banknotes
- June 4 - August 11, 2019
Co-circulation of the 2003 series and the new 2019 series florin banknotes (10 weeks)



- August 12, 2019
The 2003 series florin banknotes is taken out of circulation and is no longer legal tender
- June 4 – December 4, 2019
Exchange of the 2003 series for the new 2019 series florin banknotes only at the commercial banks (6 months)
- December 5, 2019 – August 12, 2049
Exchange of the 2003 series for the new 2019 series florin banknotes only at the CBA (30 years)

In the coming months, the CBA will conduct extensive information campaigns through various media channels, such as newspapers, radios, TV, and CBA’s Facebook, Instagram and website in order to provide the public at large with important information about the new 2019 series florin banknotes. Furthermore, the CBA will hold information sessions for targeted groups and will provide information materials at the MFA’s, the national library, schools, post offices, and commercial banks. With regard to information sessions, the CBA will publish the dates, times and venues in the local newspapers, as well as on CBA’s Facebook, Instagram and website. □





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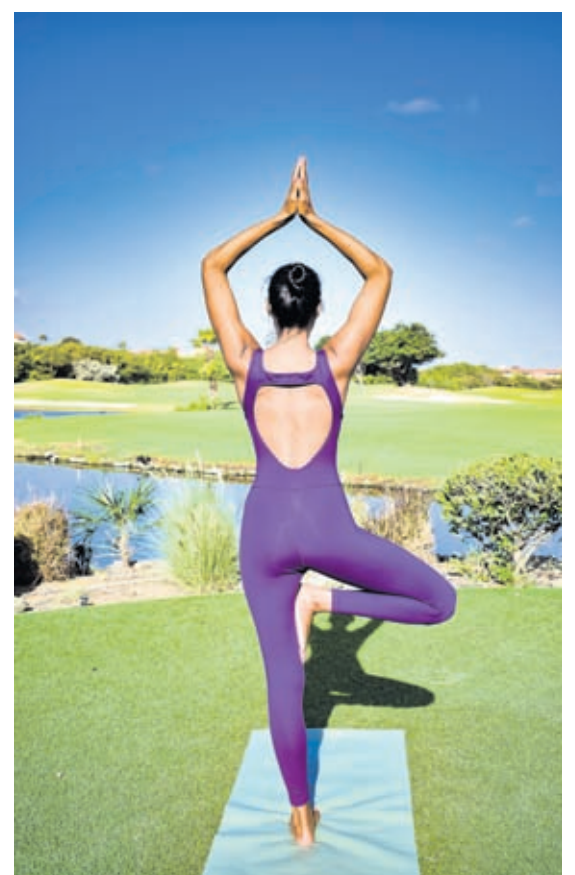
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ways active and has performed as a ballet dancer, tennis player, synchronized swimmer and aerobics instructor. She knows how important it is to wear sport outfits that are comfortable but also fashionable. The time where an old T-shirt was yet enough to do your sports are over, you feel as great in a BrasilSul outfit like a queen with her crown! □

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Rage Silver: Find Your Own World of Jewelry



"The best feeling to me is to see someone happy inside and outside because of my jewelry", says Marny de L'isle, owner of the hip stores Rage Silver. Are you looking for a perfect gift for your love ones or yourself, go here as you cannot go wrong. Cool European brands, known American jewelry and an outshining Caribbean design will for sure catch your taste. Rage Silver has an amazing store at Palm Beach Plaza and another gem at Renaissance Marketplace in Oranjestad.

Marny studied fashion design and that is visible in the store. Her collection reflects excellent taste and translates itself into hip brands like Uno de 50 from Spain which is a rebel in silver world. Big chunky jewelry that is out-of-the-box, edgy, all hand-crafted and silver-plated with a thick layer to remain affordable. "Initially they made only 50 pieces of one style but the brand became such a big hit that they expanded. These are statement pieces, showing character and confidence. They rock on a simple dress, you do not need anything else." Buddha to Buddha from Amsterdam is another attraction, so bring your piece from Europe back home. The brand Rebecca from Italy carries a delicate line and is very elegant. Right now they have great necklaces with BIG initials, following the current trend. "Initials, words, quotes and signs are hip right now. Therefore we have Key Moments, stackable bracelets you can wear with anything that carry a hashtag and word like #Beautiful, #Strong or #Love. It empowers people." Another trend according to Marny is combining bracelets and necklaces. "Multi rings creating your own look and the same with bracelets and necklaces is hot right now. Rebecca is perfect for this as the delicate line is cute to layer and combine with non-brands. Fit it to your clothes and play with it." A regional line Rage Silver offers is Beck Jewels from Curacao, featuring handmade gold-filled jewelry with Swarovski stones and fresh water pearls. "Absolutely a success, with this jewelry you make the difference."



City Chic with Caribbean Breeze

Both Rage Silver stores have their own character. "The clientele is very broad, from children to 65+ we have them buying. Renaissance Marketplace tends to attract a younger crowd due to more non-brands and casual jewelry while Palm Beach Plaza offers upscale brands as well." Besides jewelry the store at Palm Beach Plaza sells New York style, city chic clothing. "I just love New York and these clothing lines fit perfect to my jewelry lines. I focus on tops and dresses, all mixed fabrics and comfy to wear. Get your own look with a top and jewelry and BAM, you are ready."

The Story

The start of the store is actually a love story. "On a business trip for my job at that time I spent a few hours at Puerto Rico where I bought this silver bracelet for my now husband. It had little koko pellites on it and it was the perfect gift for him as he was a kite surfer/beach boy type. His friends were so enthusiastic about it that he told me: "Why don't we start a silver shop." With a little budget I started off selling rings of Mexican silver from the house and slowly expanded. Eventually we opened our first store together at Oranjestad. Today we got as far as two stores, one at Renaissance Marketplace and one at Palm Beach Plaza. We have a loyal local clientele as well as repeated visitors buying their favorite jewelry here. □



Renaissance Marketplace
Monday - Saturday 10 am - 8 pm
Telephone +297-2806226
ragejewelry@gmail.com

Palm Beach Plaza Mall
Monday - Saturday 10 am - 10 pm
Sundays 5 pm - 10 pm
Telephone +297-5861244
ragejewelry@gmail.com

Aruban born and bred Steve Francees has a passion for photography. Being a local photographer he knows the hidden gems of this island and captures them in an amazing way. As a Family and Landscape photographer Steve is ready to create your next 'vacation memories', morning and/or sunset shots. T: (297) 738-0777, M: stevefrancees@hotmail.com, www.instagram.com/stevefrancees and www.stevefrancees.com



The "Willem III Tower" at Fort Zoutman



I find this building very fascinating and took this shot during the sunset hour. Fort Zoutman was a military fortification in Oranjestad and was built in 1798 by the Dutch army and it is the oldest structure here in Aruba. The Willem III Tower was added to the west side of the fort in 1868 that you can see in this photo. The fort and tower were restored and re-opened in 1983 as the Historical Museum of Aruba. Over the years, it has also functioned as the town clock, post office, police station and watchtower.

The trick to good beach photos



The problem with taking photos here in Aruba is that we have direct sunlight and this can enhance or damage your photos. If you had studied photography the first lesson they will teach you is to look where there is shade and run away from direct sunlight and you know what I'm talking about. Well here in Aruba we don't have overcast nor places to look for shades on the beach. It's 100% pure direct sunlight. So the trick is to make sure the sunlight is from your back at a 33 to 45 degrees angle and shines on your subject. This is the only angle that will maintain the true Aruba colors almost intact. Try it out and DM me on instagram @ stevefrancees, you will love to see the result.

The second oldest building in Oranjestad



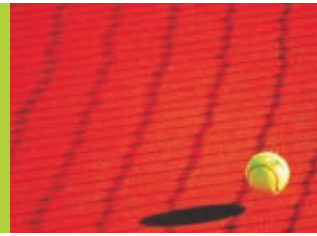
This building is very unique and stand as a pedestal in Oranjestad. "Huisje Hart" was owned by the Hart family for many generations and was recently restored into a piece of art. "Huisje Hart", this small house was built in the first half of the 19th century. It was built from coral stone and originally had zinc roofing. The Hart family was the owner of this property in the 20th century and sold it in 2014.

The amazing Arashi Beach



I've been to this amazing beach 1000 times and every time I get another picture just by changing angles. First you must look for the best light quality and the angle, this depends on the time of the day. If the light is not perfect for the photo you want to take, just wait till you get the perfect light or come back another time of the day to take the shot. Mornings and sunsets are just unbelievable amazing at this beach.

SPORTS



Portland Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard walks to the bench during the second half of Game 2 of the team's NBA basketball playoffs Western Conference finals against the Golden State Warriors in Oakland, Calif., Thursday, May 16, 2019.

Associated Press

Lillard separated ribs in Game 2 against the Warriors

By ANNE M. PETERSON

AP Sports Writer

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) —

Portland's Damian Lillard sustained separated ribs in Game 2 of the Western Conference finals against the Golden State Warriors. Lillard confirmed the injury on Sunday, a day after the Trail Blazers lost 110-99 in Game 3. Lillard was 5 of 18 from the floor and finished with 19 points in Portland's third straight loss in the series.

The injury was originally reported by The Athletic. Lillard said the separation is on the left side, and he wore protective padding in Game 3.

"Obviously it's frustrating. I think Game 2, we had that game. We let that one slip away.

Had a double-digit lead in Game 3, let that one slip away as well," Lillard said.

□

Back-to-Back



Brooks Koepka wins PGA Championship

Brooks Koepka reacts after sinking a putt on the 18th green to win the PGA Championship golf tournament, Sunday, May 19, 2019, at Bethpage Black in Farmingdale, N.Y.

Associated Press
Page 20

Blues move to brink of Cup final with 5-0 win over Sharks

By JOSH DUBOW

AP Sports Writer

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) —

Vladimir Tarasenko scored on a penalty shot and Jaden Schwartz added the first of his three goals during a dominant second period that carried St. Louis to the brink of its first trip to the Stanley Cup Final in nearly a half-century, sending the Blues to a 5-0 victory over the San Jose Sharks on Sunday in Game 5 of the Western Conference final.

St. Louis used a relentless forecheck to take control of the game and series in the second period, getting the two goals and outshooting the beleaguered Sharks 20-6 during the frame. It also got 21 saves from Jordan Binnington in his first playoff shutout and a first-period goal from Oskar Sundqvist to overwhelm the Sharks.

Schwartz added two goals in the third for his second hat trick this postseason, becoming the first player with two in one playoff run since Johan Franzen for Detroit in 2008.

The victory gave the Blues a 3-2 series lead, the closest they've been to making the final since getting there in their first three seasons as the winner of the all-expansion Western Conference. St. Louis can earn its first trip back to the final since 1970 with a win at home in Game 6 on Tuesday night. Martin Jones made 35 saves for the Sharks but got little help from his teammates, who have been held to one goal in losing the past two games. San Jose now faces elimination for the third straight series, having overcome a

3-1 series deficit to Vegas in the first round and winning a Game 7 at home in the second round against Colorado.

San Jose got off to a spirited start in the rare afternoon contest that led to a more subdued crowd than usual at the Shark Tank. Evander Kane hit the post just 12 seconds into the game and the Sharks had the better of the play in the opening 20 minutes despite falling behind 1-0 when Sundqvist converted a turnover from a hobbled Erik Karlsson into a goal less than six minutes into the contest.

Karlsson has been hampered by a groin injury that sidelined him for 27 of the final 33 games in the regular season and has been extremely limited since the third period of Game 4. He tried to make a quick outlet under pressure but his pass went through teammate Brenden Dillon's skates, off the boards and right to Sundqvist, who beat Jones to give the Blues their fourth goal of the series from the fourth line.

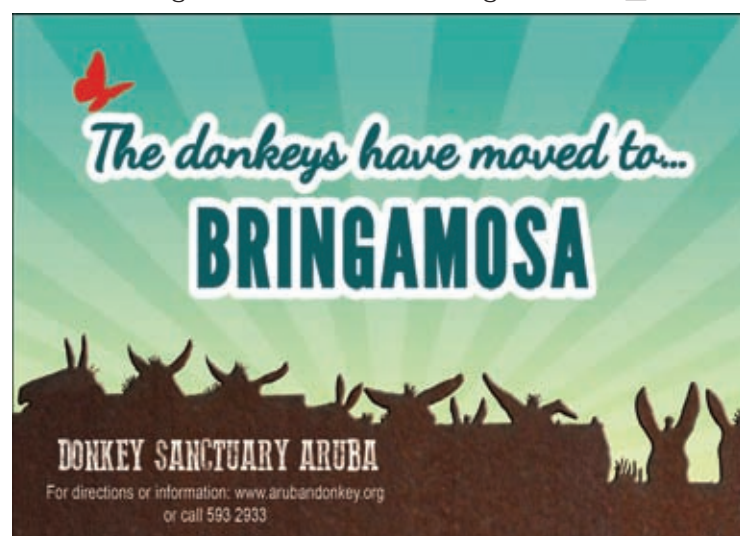
The Blues then took over in the second period, putting 11 shots on goal in less than five minutes. They added to the lead when Tarasenko's shot was partially blocked. Jones then swept it away but it went right to Schwartz, who knocked it into the open net to make it 2-0.

The Blues didn't let up after that and kept the pressure, leading to a breakaway by Tarasenko. He was pulled down by Brent Burns for a penalty shot and converted it with a shot high to Jones' glove side. □



San Jose Sharks' Brent Burns (88) interferes on a breakaway of St. Louis Blues' Vladimir Tarasenko (91) in the second period in Game 5 of the NHL hockey Stanley Cup Western Conference finals in San Jose, Calif., on Sunday, May 19, 2019.

Associated Press



Koepka survives Bethpage Black to win PGA Championship

By DOUG FERGUSON
FARMINGDALE, N.Y. (AP)

— Brooks Koepka took his place in PGA Championship history with a wire-to-wire victory, minus the style points.

In a raging wind that turned Bethpage Black into a beast, Koepka lost all but one shot of his record seven-shot lead Sunday. He lost the brutal Long Island crowd, which began chanting "DJ!" for Dustin Johnson as Koepka was on his way to a fourth straight bogey.

But he delivered the key shots over the closing stretch as Johnson faded with two straight bogeys, and Koepka closed with a 4-over 74 for a two-shot victory and joined Tiger Woods as the only back-



Brooks Koepka poses with the Wanamaker Trophy after winning the PGA Championship golf tournament, Sunday, May 19, 2019, at Bethpage Black in Farmingdale, N.Y. (AP Photo/Julio Cortez) Associated Press

to-back winners of the PGA Championship since it went to stroke play in 1958.

Koepka said at the start of the week that majors are sometimes the easiest to

win.

This one should have been. It wasn't.

His 74 was the highest final round by a PGA champion since Vijay Singh won in a

playoff in 2004 at Whistling Straits.

"I'm just glad I don't have to play any more holes," Koepka said. "That was a stressful round of golf. I'm glad to have this thing back in my hands."

Koepka appeared to wrap it up with a gap wedge from 156 yards to 2 feet on the 10th hole for a birdie, as Johnson made his first bogey of the round up ahead on the 11th. That restored the lead to six shots, and the coronation was on.

And then it all changed in a New York minute.

Koepka missed three straight fairways and made three straight bogeys, having to make a 6-foot putt on No. 11 to keep it from being worse. The wind was so fickle that it died as he

hit 7-iron to the par-3 14th that sailed over the green, leading to a fourth straight bogey.

The crowd sensed a collapse, and began chanting, "DJ! DJ! DJ!" as Koepka was playing the hole. Ahead of him, Johnson made birdie on the 15th — the toughest hole at Bethpage Black all week — and the lead was down to one. That was as close as Johnson got.

His 5-iron pierced through a wind that gusted close to 25 mph, over the green and into a buried lie. He missed the 7-foot par putt, went long of the green on the par-3 17th for another bogey and had to settle for 69.

"Hit the shot I wanted to right at the flag," Johnson said of his 5-iron from 194 yards on the 16th. "I don't know how it flew 200 yards into the wind like that."

Johnson now has runner-up finishes in all four of the majors, the wrong kind of career Grand Slam.

"I gave it a run," he said. "That's all you can ask for."

Koepka returned to No. 1 in the world with a performance that defines his dominance in golf's biggest events.

He becomes the first player to hold back-to-back titles in two majors at the same time, having won a second straight U.S. Open last summer 60 miles down the road at Shinnecock Hills. He was the first wire-to-wire winner in the PGA Championship since Hal Sutton at Riviera in 1983.

And what stakes his claim as one of the best in his generation was a third straight year winning a major. He joins a most elite group — only Woods, Phil Mickelson, Tom Watson, Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer have done that since the Masters began in 1934.

He now has four majors in his last eight, a streak not seen since Woods won seven out of 11 when he captured the 2002 U.S. Open at Bethpage Black.

Next up is the U.S. Open at Pebble Beach, where Koepka defends his title for the third time. □

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In this Dec. 30, 2018, file photo, Philadelphia Eagles defensive end Chris Long stands on the sideline prior to the team's NFL football game against the Washington Redskins in Landover, Md.

Associated Press

Eagles' Chris Long announces retirement after 11 NFL seasons

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Eagles defensive lineman Chris Long announced his retirement from football Saturday night, ending an 11-year NFL playing career that included winning two Super Bowl titles and the Walter Payton Man of the Year Award.

Long posted his decision on Twitter, with a tweet that included a picture of his right hand holding up a red cup with a grassy field, trees and mountains in the background.

"Cheers," Long wrote. "Been a hell of a journey. Eleven years and I can honestly say I put my soul into every minute of it. Highs and lows. I've seen them both and I appreciate the perspective. Gratitude and love to those who lifted me up."

The 33-year-old son of Hall of Famer Howie Long had 70 career sacks and 15 forced fumbles in stints with the Rams, Patriots and Eagles. He won back-to-back championships with the Patriots (2017) and Eagles (2018). Long was selected last February as the league's Walter Payton Award recipient for his

outstanding community service. He established the Chris Long Foundation in 2015 to impact communities nationally and internationally through programs focusing on clean water, military appreciation, and youth education.

In 2017, Long donated his entire salary to support education in cities where he has played: St. Louis, Boston and Philadelphia.

Last year, Long climbed Mount Kilimanjaro with other NFL players and some U.S. military veterans to raise money to build clean water wells for East Africa.

He was the second overall pick in the 2008 draft by the Rams out of Virginia. Long spent his first eight seasons in St. Louis before signing with New England as a free agent in 2016. He played his final two seasons with Philadelphia after joining the Eagles as a free agent.

"Chris was everything that we thought he was and even more — not only as a great player for our football team, but also in the community," the Eagles said in a statement posted on their website. □

Pagenaud takes 1st Indianapolis 500 pole with impressive run

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Simon Pagenaud keeps finding new ways to impress his team owner.

Last weekend, he rallied in the rain to end a 21-race drought. On Sunday, he put Roger Penske back on the pole for the Indianapolis 500. And he may not be finished.

Pagenaud traded high-fives and pumped his fist along pit row after earning the first Indy pole by a French driver in a century. He had a four-lap qualifying average of 229.992 mph to edge Ed Carpenter and Spencer Pigot and give Chevrolet a clean sweep of the front row for next Sunday's race.

"Watching him run in that road race, in the water, I've never seen a run like that in my life," Penske said after the team captured its 266th IndyCar pole. "And then to come out here and win the pole? We've got great momentum."

The timing couldn't be better for Pagenaud, either. With his contract expiring at the end of this season and questions lingering about his future, the 2016 series champ has thrived this month on IndyCar's biggest stage.

He won the IndyCar Grand Prix for his first trip to victory lane since the 2017 season finale at Sonoma. He earned his first pole since July 2017 at Toronto.

On Sunday, Pagenaud was the only driver in the nine-car pole shootout to top 230 on three of the four laps. He knocked a three-time Indy pole winner out of the top spot.

Carpenter wound up second with an average of 229.889. Pigot, who also drives for Ed Carpenter



Simon Pagenaud, of France, celebrates after winning the pole for the Indianapolis 500 IndyCar auto race at Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Sunday, May 19, 2019 in Indianapolis.

Racing, will start third at 229.826.

"This is truly what Team Penske does," Pagenaud said. "They give us the best equipment. Quite frankly, (my driving is) at the very, very end of what made this possible. I'm just very honored to drive this No.22 Chevy Menards, which obviously was very incredible today."

Teammates Will Power, the defending race winner, and Josef Newgarden, the 2017 IndyCar champ, didn't record a single lap on the 2.5-mile oval over 229. Three-time Indy winner Helio Castroneves didn't even make the shootout.

And now Pagenaud has positioned himself perfectly to extend Penske's record to 18 Indy 500 wins — as he celebrates the 50th anniversary of his first trip to Indy as a team owner.

Plus, Pagenaud also can become the second straight driver to sweep the two Indy races — joining Power. The Australian achieved the feat last year. The only real competition in qualifying came from Carpenter's three-car contingent, which included Ed

Jones of Dubai landing in the No. 4 starting spot.

"To have Ed Carpenter cars starting second, third and fourth, I think that speaks volumes to the organization," Carpenter said. "I really wish one of us would have ended up on pole, but I'm still really happy to be two, three and four. Simon just put in a really nice, long run. His car was so consistent. I couldn't be that consistent, so, congrats to him."

Pigot had the fastest car on Saturday and would have had the pole if rain had washed out qualifying.

But the track stayed dry just long enough for Pagenaud to take an even more trimmed out car around the track quickly and smoothly. It was all he needed.

"I wouldn't say I was doing a rain dance all day," Pigot said. "As a race car driver, we love driving IndyCars to the limit and you definitely get a chance to do that here with qualifying. So, any chance we get to put four laps together here, it's exciting. Unfortunately, it was a little short, but it was a great day for the team." □

Back on top: Nadal beats Djokovic for 9th Italian Open title

By **ANDREW DAMPF**

ROME (AP) — Rafael Nadal is right back where he wants to be.

After losing in the semifinals of three straight clay-court tournaments, Nadal dominated for stretches against his longtime rival, Novak Djokovic, in a 6-0, 4-6, 6-1 win Sunday for a record-extending ninth Italian Open title.

It marked the first time in an Open Era-record 54 meetings, and in their 142nd set against each other, that Nadal won a set against Djokovic without conceding a game — otherwise known as a bagel.

The timing for Nadal's return to form could not have been more opportune, as he will seek a record-extending 12th title at the French Open starting next weekend.

"Winning a title is important but for me the most important thing is feel myself competitive, feel myself healthy," Nadal said. "Then with the feeling that I am improving. I know if I'm able to reach my level you can win, you can lose, but normally I'm going to have my chances, especially on this surface."

Top-ranked Djokovic, meanwhile, appeared exhausted after spending more than 5 ½ hours on



Rafael Nadal of Spain kisses his trophy after winning against Novak Djokovic of Serbia at the end of their final match at the Italian Open tennis tournament, in Rome, Sunday, May 19, 2019.
Associated Press

court against Juan Martin del Potro and Diego Schwartzman the previous two days.

Djokovic was also coming off the Madrid Open title last week.

"I don't want to talk about fatigue or things like that," Djokovic said. "Rafa was simply too strong today."

In the women's final earlier, Karolina Pliskova captured the biggest clay-court trophy of her career by beating Johanna Konta 6-3, 6-4. The Foro Italico crowd continually tried to encourage Djokovic with chants of "Vai Nole!" — Go Nole! — but the top-ranked Serb struggled with his overhead and drop shots.

Midway through the sec-

ond set, Nadal chased down a lob with an over-the-shoulder shot and Djokovic's ensuing overhead landed in the net to conclude a long point.

Djokovic again netted an overhead in the next game and then kicked the ball in frustration when he missed a drop shot attempt late in the second.

But Djokovic hung around in the second and converted his first set point when a looping forehand from Nadal sailed wide for his first break of the match. As he walked to his chair after winning the second set, Djokovic waved his arms to get the crowd behind him. However, Djokovic didn't have much left in the tank.

When Nadal pushed Djokovic deep into the corner in the opening game of the third set and Djokovic's desperation lob sailed long to hand Nadal a break, Djokovic smashed his racket to the clay three times in frustration and received a warning from the chair umpire.

Djokovic won only 29 percent of the points on his second serve and committed 39 unforced errors to Nadal's 17. Also, Nadal won 23 of the 31 rallies with nine or more shots.

PLISKOVA NO. 2

Pliskova's victory will move her up to No. 2 in the rankings and makes her one of the contenders for Roland Garros.

"I just hope to take the tennis I was playing here to Paris," Pliskova said. "For sure there's going to be a chance for me if I play this way."

The 2016 U.S. Open runner-up, Pliskova also reached the Australian Open semifinals and the Miami Open final after opening this season with a title in Brisbane, Australia. But she lost in the second round of her previous two tournaments on clay in Stuttgart, Germany, and Madrid.

"Nobody really gave me chance for this tournament — even me," Pliskova said.

"Before the tournament, I was not super confident, not thinking about the final at all. I was just happy with every match which I played. So it's little bit like a miracle for me."

The unseeded Konta appeared nervous at the start, double faulting then landing a backhand into the net to hand Pliskova a break in her opening service game.

In the second set, Pliskova used a swinging forehand volley putaway to break for a 4-3 lead and never looked back.

"It's always tough playing Karolina," Konta said. "There's rarely really a rhythm to the match. She plays with big shots, quite flat, and big serves. It can feel sometimes you're fighting an uphill battle. That was the case today."

After converting her third championship point, Pliskova went over and slapped hands with Conchita Martinez, the four-time Rome champion who she recently named her head coach. Pliskova then asked Martinez and the rest of her team to come down onto the court for her victory celebration.

"She loved clay so she knows exactly what I should do," Pliskova said of Martinez. □



Primož Roglic pedals on his way to win the 9th stage of the Giro d'Italia cycling race, an individual time trial over 34,8 km from Riccione to San Marino, in San Marino, Italy, Sunday, May 19, 2019.

Associated Press

SAN MARINO (AP) — Primož Roglic of Slovenia won the ninth stage of the Giro d'Italia on Sunday as Italian cyclist Valerio Conti extended his overall lead after the individual time trial.

Roglic, who also won the opening individual time trial, was quickest on the rain-soaked 35-kilometer (22-mile) route from Riccione that had an uphill finish in San Marino — the only time this year that the

Roglic wins Stage 9; Conti keeps pink jersey in Giro

Giro crosses into another country.

The 29-year-old Roglic was 11 seconds faster than Belgium cyclist Victor Campenaerts and one minute ahead of Bauke Mollema of the Netherlands.

Roglic had been more than five minutes behind Conti going into the time trial but moved into second overall, 1:50 behind the UAE Team Emirates cyclist, who had replaced Roglic in the overall lead after finishing second in Thursday's sixth stage.

Moreover, Roglic gained time on his rivals. British cyclist Simon Yates — one of the pre-race favorites — finished more than three minutes behind Roglic.

"It's a perfect performance in my mind. I did a good job," Roglic said. "I took it easy at the beginning and I gave it all at the end."

"It's nice to take some time over the other GC favorites but the Giro is far from over."

Nans Peters of France moved third overall, 2:21 behind Conti.

"It was very rainy for me but

I stayed calm. My goal was to keep the Maglia Rosa so I'm very happy with the result," Conti said.

Vincenzo Nibali fared the best out of the rest of the pre-race favorites, finishing fourth on a day which saw only 12 riders finish within two minutes of the winner. The Italian is 3:34 behind Conti.

Monday is the race's first rest day before Tuesday's 10th stage, an entirely flat 145-kilometer route from Ravenna to Modena.

The Giro finishes in Verona on June 2. □



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Wilder KOs Breazeale in 1st round to defend heavyweight belt

By BRIAN MAHONEY

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Deontay Wilder believes they are coming, the mega match-up with Anthony Joshua and the rematch with Tyson Fury.

Until then, he moved onto some business with Dominic Breazeale.

He took care of it quickly and emphatically.

Wilder got back into the win column Saturday night, knocking out Breazeale with an overpowering right hand in the first round to defend his heavyweight title.

"There's been a lot of animosity and a lot of words that were said and it just came out of me tonight," Wilder said.

Wilder hurt Breazeale with a right to the head early in their fight at Barclays Center, but the challenger had recovered from that early onslaught. But there was no coming back from the right later in the round that immediately dropped Breazeale, who was trying to get up as referee Harvey Dock counted him out at 2:17 of the round.

"When I hit him with the right hand the first time, his body language changed," Wilder said.

And with the last one, Breazeale's body language crumpled.

Wilder (41-0-1, 40 KOs) was coming off his draw against Fury in December, the first fight of his pro career that wasn't a victory. He wanted a rematch with Fury or a unification match with fellow champion Joshua, but settled for a mandatory defense of his WBC title when those couldn't be made.

He ended it quickly, finishing off Breazeale (20-2) after being pushed hard in each of his last two fights.

Wilder weighed in at a little

more than 223 pounds, a gain from the 209 he was at for the Fury fight, but still well below the 245 he set as a goal after feeling he was too small in that bout, in which he dropped Fury with a huge combination in the 12th round but had to settle for the draw when the challenger was able to get up and finish the fight. An immediate rematch was expected before Fury surprisingly went another route.

"I understand what Tyson Fury did. When you get dropped on the canvas like that, I understand you have to get yourself back together," Wilder said. "But the rematch will happen, like all these other fights will happen. The great thing is all these fights are in discussion. The big fights will happen."

And Wilder won't need any more pounds as long as he still has one of the most feared right hands in boxing.

Breazeale had downplayed Wilder's power, saying heavyweights are supposed to hit hard. But he should certainly be a believer now.

He was challenging for a heavyweight title for the second time, having been stopped by Joshua in the seventh round three years ago in Britain. He said he had learned and grown from that fight, but there's nothing that could have prepared him for what faced in landing just two punches before 13,181 fans in Brooklyn.

"This was a situation where he landed the big right hand before I did," Breazeale said. "I thought I was going to come on in the later rounds. I'll be back and go for the heavyweight title again."

Wilder and Joshua was the



Deontay Wilder, right, knocks down Dominic Breazeale during the first round of the WBC heavyweight championship boxing match Saturday, May 18, 2019, in New York. Wilder stopped Breazeale in the first round.

Associated Press

fight just about everyone in boxing would prefer to see, but so far it's been all talk without seriously moving close to action.

Joshua will be making his U.S. debut at nearby Madison Square Garden on June 1, so perhaps they could try again afterward to negotiate a bout.

Wilder easily put aside the letdown of not fighting Joshua or Fury again because of his anger toward Breazeale over an altercation involving family members at an Alabama hotel

in 2017. He went as far as to tout his ability to kill a man in the ring, remarks for which WBC President Mauricio Sulaiman said would be addressed by the organization in a hearing.

Wilder was coming off tough tests in his last two bouts, getting rocked by Luis Ortiz in their March 2018 fight in this arena before stopping the Cuban in the 10th round, and needing a knockdown in the final round to secure the draw with Fury.

He looked like a picture

of peace as he carried his young daughter into the arena about three hours earlier, but was back to making his case as boxing's baddest man once the fighting started.

In the other title fight on the card, Gary Russell Jr. (30-1, 18 KOs) defended his piece of the featherweight title when the referee stopped his bout with Kiko Martinez (39-9-2) late in the fifth round on the advice of the ringside doctor because of a bad cut over the challenger's left eye. □

Schools turn to apps, other tech to guard against shootings

By STEFANIE DAZIO

LOS ANGELES (AP) —

Schools trying to protect kids from mass shootings are turning to gunshot detection systems, cellphone apps and artificial intelligence — a high-tech approach designed to reduce the number of victims.

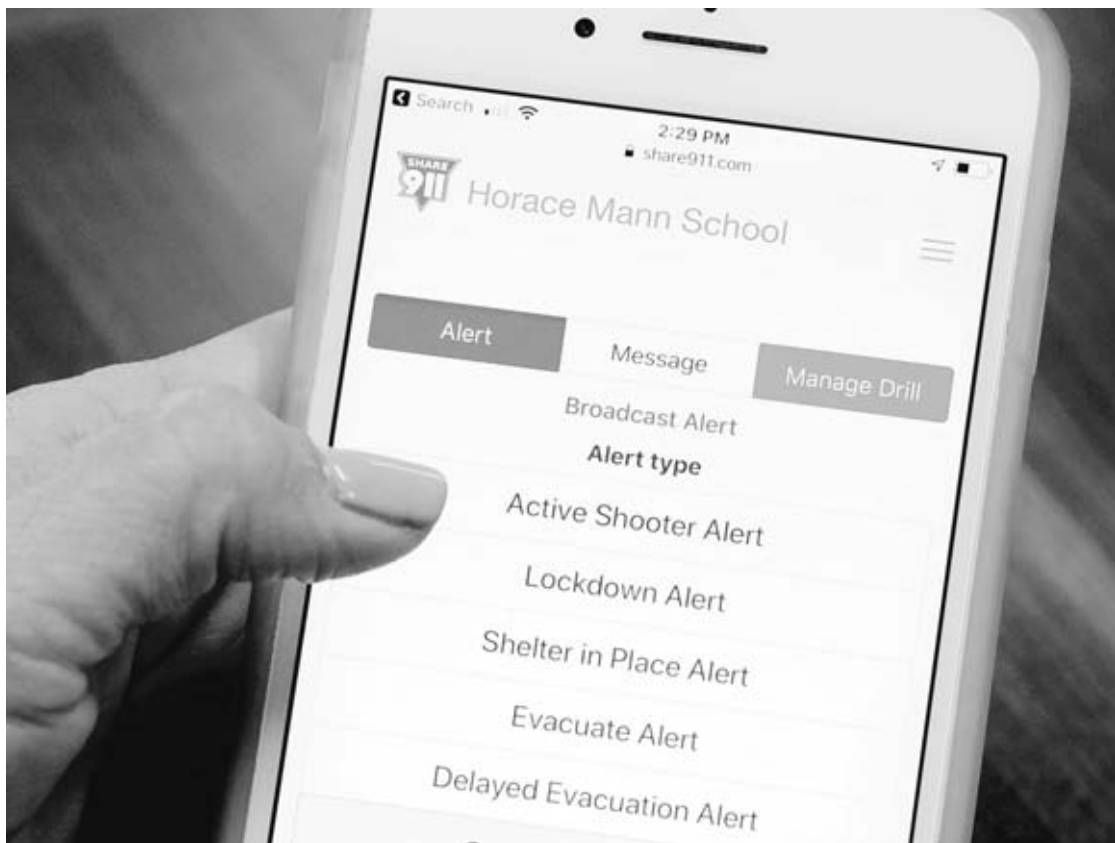
Technology that speeds up law enforcement's response and quickly alerts teachers and students to danger is a growing tool amid rising concerns over the inability to prevent shootings like the one last week at a suburban Denver high school. An 18-year-old student who rushed one of the gunmen died.

While a focus on gun control often emerges after school shootings, technology can be a less partisan solution that's quick to implement — though some experts say funding preventive mental health resources should be the priority.

"We've kind of reached this state of frustration where we (feel like we) can't protect our students," said Dennis Kenney, a professor at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice. "What we're trying to do is find some technological fix, and there isn't one."

Districts nationwide are recognizing that and instituting an approach that combines technology with mental health programs, bullying prevention and security officers.

"If I'm intent on shoot-



In this Monday May 13, 2019 photo Juliet Fine, principal at Beverly Hills Unified School District's K-8 Horace Mann School shows the Share 911 phone application on her cell phone during an interview in her office in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

ing people at a school, there are 20 ways to do it," said Erik Endress, CEO of Share911, a New Jersey-based company with an app that allows staff to immediately report to colleagues and police everything from medical conditions to active shooters.

"We can improve the outcome of these situations," Endress said. "We can minimize the casualty count." While school attacks are relatively rare, they have been among the deadliest mass shootings in U.S. history.

The 1999 massacre of 13 people at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, ushered in a new era of school security but the carnage continued, including 27 people killed in 2012 at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, and 17 deaths last year at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

Joseph Erardi, a retired Newtown superintendent who came to the district a year after the shooting, said lawmakers pressed for "hardening" infrastructure at schools.

That has spurred a billion-dollar industry where companies manufacture prod-

ucts from "ballistic attack-resistant" doors to smoke cannons. The hardening market, as well as lobbying efforts to get taxpayer dollars to fund upgrades, had stalled in recent years but rekindled after the Parkland shooting.

Now many schools, like the Beverly Hills Unified School District, are combining that kind of hardware with more high-tech solutions and therapeutic programs.

"That's like the Number 1 concept of security for any principal: physical security and emotional security of children," said Juliet Fine, principal at Horace Mann School, which serves kindergarten through eighth grade.

Beverly Hills is among 200 U.S. school districts using the Share911 app. The board of education added it and other measures, including armed security officers, following the Parkland shooting.

In the fall, the district will add a central command center that will monitor feeds from all the district's surveillance cameras and use software to monitor keywords in online search traffic for potential threats.

"Safety in schools is evolving. Technology and soft-

ware, like in all aspects of the modern world, need to be utilized and used," said Christopher Hertz, district director of school safety. "We want our kids to feel and be safe. ... If we do all this, then our teachers can do what they need to do."

Wealthier areas have not been immune to violence. Horace Mann parents and teachers stressed that they and students feel safe within the walled campus, and not just because it's in an exclusive area.

"I'm grateful I live in this community that has so much security, and I know they are protected," Evelyn Lahiji, 42, said as she picked up her sons, Lorenzo Naghdechi, 8, and Leonardo Naghdechi, 9.

Christina Richner, 45, said her 6-year-old son, Julian, and 9-year-old daughter, Olivia, have gone through so many emergency drills that "their reflexes will kick in" during a shooting.

The students are trained to gather in a corner with the classroom's lights out and blinds drawn in a lockdown, social studies teacher Laura Stark said. Staffers check in via the Share911 app to share information, including if any kids are missing or injured.

Share911 launched three weeks after the Sandy Hook shooting. The app provides real-time data to school employees and law enforcement, such as the type of threat and its location, based on floor plans of the building.

"You can't decide if you're going to run, hide or fight in the absence of information," said Endress, the CEO. AmberBox, an indoor gunshot detection product that looks like a smoke detector, has a similar philosophy. It alerts school officials and law enforcement the moment a shot is fired and maps the location.

The system uses sensors that track a gun's muzzle flash and a bullet's shockwave, CEO James Popper said.

Chicago-based Aegis AI is refining technology to identify a gun as soon as it enters an area that a camera is scanning. The company was incorporated a year ago and still is working to minimize false alarms, such as when the software flags a staple gun or drill, CEO Sonny Tai said. Most of its clients are in a pilot program.

Some experts are concerned that districts are embracing technology to allay public concern while taking money away from mental health programs and violence-prevention efforts.

"It's something you can show. I can go to a board meeting and hold up this shiny thing," said Amy Klinger, co-founder of The Educator's School Safety Network and a former teacher and school administrator in Ohio.

Despite the advances in both safety technology and mental health programs, experts say there's no foolproof way to predict or stop a shooting. Wealthy, suburban districts like Beverly Hills that can afford the latest innovations face as much risk as inner-city schools where metal detectors have been commonplace for years.

"Nobody ever thinks it's going to happen there," Endress said. "Well, it's happening everywhere." □

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China's ban on scrap imports a boon to U.S. recycling plants

By MARY ESCH
Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — The halt on China's imports of wastepaper and plastic that has disrupted U.S. recycling programs has also spurred investment in American plants that process recyclables.

U.S. paper mills are expanding capacity to take advantage of a glut of cheap scrap. Some facilities that previously exported plastic or metal to China have retooled so they can process it themselves.

And in a twist, the investors include Chinese companies that are still interested in having access to wastepaper or flattened bottles as raw material for manufacturing.

"It's a very good moment for recycling in the United States," said Neil Seldman, co-founder of the Institute for Local Self-Reliance, a Washington-based organization that helps cities improve recycling programs. China, which had long been the world's largest destination for paper, plastic and other recyclables, phased in import restrictions in January 2018.

Global scrap prices plummeted, prompting waste-hauling companies to pass the cost of sorting and baling recyclables on to municipalities. With no market for the wastepaper and plastic in their blue bins, some communities scaled back or suspended curbside recycling programs.

New domestic markets offer a glimmer of hope.

About \$1 billion in investment in U.S. paper processing plants has been announced in the past six months, according to Dylan de Thomas, a vice president at The Recycling Partnership, a nonprofit organization that tracks and works with the industry.

Hong Kong-based Nine Dragons, one of the world's largest producers of cardboard boxes, has invested \$500 million over the past year to buy and expand or restart production at paper mills in Maine, Wisconsin and West Virginia.

In addition to making pa-

per from wood fiber, the mills will add production lines turning more than a million tons of scrap into pulp to make boxes, said Brian Boland, vice president of government affairs and corporate initiatives for ND Paper, Nine Dragons' U.S. affiliate.

"The paper industry has been in contraction since the early 2000s," Boland said. "To see this kind of change is frankly amazing. Even though it's a Chinese-owned company, it's creating U.S. jobs and revitalizing communities like Old Town, Maine, where the old mill was shuttered."

The Northeast Recycling Council said in a report last fall that 17 North American paper mills had announced increased capacity to handle recyclable paper since the Chinese cutoff.

Another Chinese company, Global Win Wickliffe, is reopening a shuttered paper mill in Kentucky. Georgia-based Pratt Industries is constructing a mill in Wapakoneta, Ohio that will turn 425,000 tons of recycled paper per year into shipping boxes.

Plastics also has a lot of capacity coming online, de Thomas said, noting new or expanded plants in Texas, Pennsylvania, California and North Carolina that turn recycled plastic bottles into new bottles.

Chinese companies are investing in plastic and scrap metal recycling plants in Georgia, Indiana and North Carolina to make feedstocks for manufacturers in China, he said.

In New Brunswick, New Jersey, the recycling company GDB International exported bales of scrap plastic film such as pallet wrap and grocery bags for years. But when China started restricting imports, company president Sunil Bagaria installed new machinery to process it into pellets he sells profitably to manufacturers of garbage bags and plastic pipe.

He said the imports cutoff that China calls "National Sword" was a much-needed wake-up call to his industry.

"The export of plastic scrap played a big role in facilitating recycling in our country," Bagaria said. "The downside is that infrastructure to do our own domestic recycling didn't develop."

Now that is changing, though he said far more domestic processing capacity will be needed as a growing number of countries restrict scrap imports.

"Ultimately, sooner or later, the society that produces plastic scrap will become responsible for recycling it," he said.

It has also yet to be seen whether the new plants coming on line can quickly fix the problems for municipal recycling programs that relied heavily on sales to China to get rid of piles of scrap.

"Chinese companies are investing in mills, but until we see what the demand is going to be at those mills,



In this May 7, 2019 photo, plastic pill bottles are bundled for recycling at a GDB International warehouse in Monmouth Junction, N.J. According to GDB International president Sunil Bagaria, the domestic processing capacity of recyclable materials will need to increase as a growing number of countries restrict scrap imports.

Associated Press

we're stuck in this rut," said Ben Harvey, whose company in Westborough, Massachusetts, collects trash and recyclables for about 30 communities.

He had a parking lot filled with stockpiled paper a year ago after China closed its doors, but even-

tually found buyers in India, Korea and Indonesia.

Keith Ristau, CEO of Far West Recycling in Portland, Oregon, said most of the recyclable plastic his company collects used to go to China. Now most goes to processors in Canada or California. □

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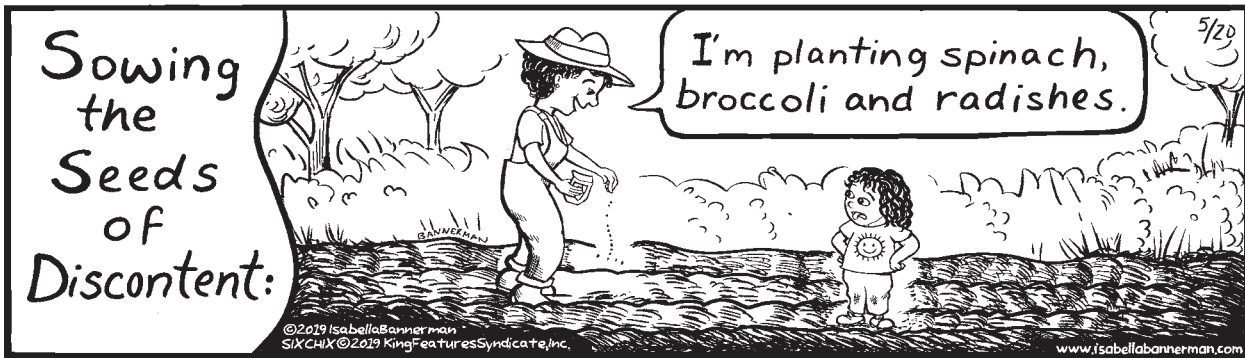
- 5 Bedroom
- 4 Bathroom
- 1 Story
- Great Location
- Modern
- Large Lot
- Large Pool
- Rent income
- 1643 m2 land
- Property Land
- Walking distance to Beach



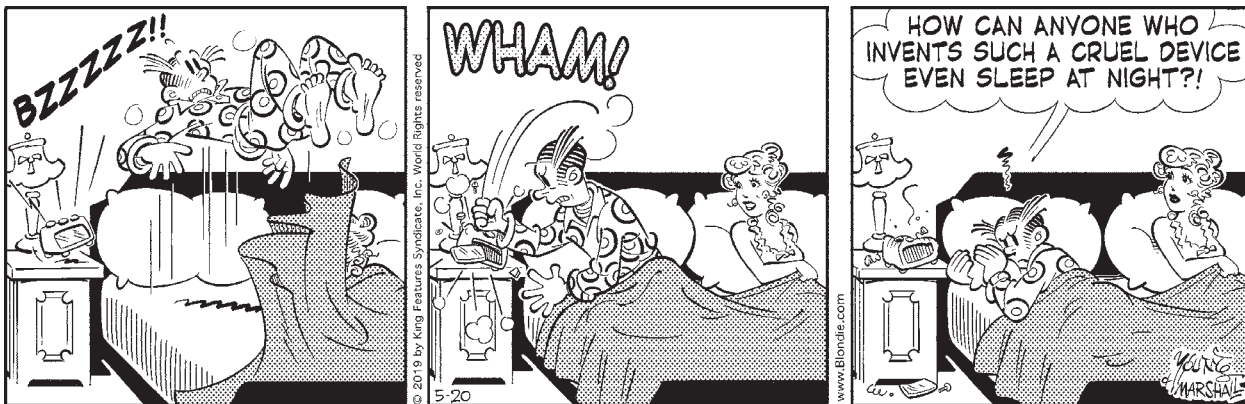
Mutts



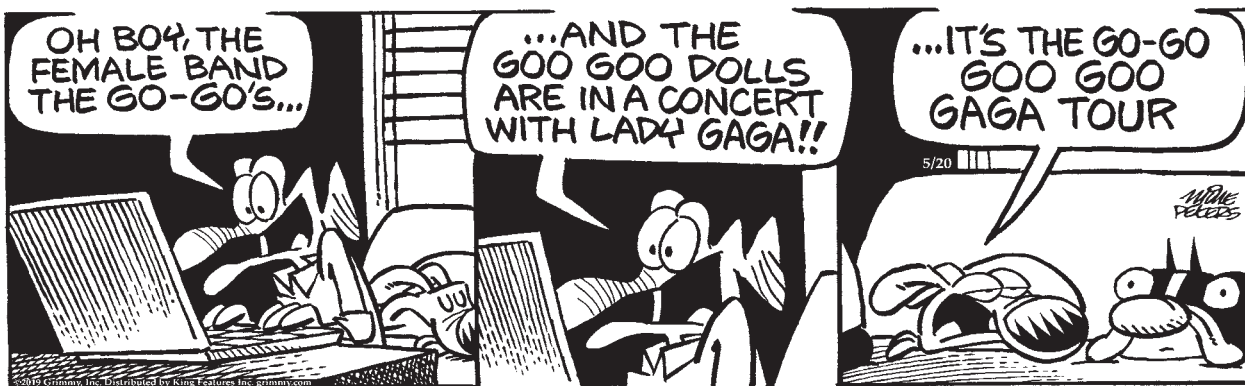
6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	9						4	
6	2		9		1		8	3
			3		6			
	8	4		1		9	3	
			7		4			
	1	2		6		5	7	
			1		2			
3	4		6		7		9	5
	6						1	

Difficulty Level ★

5/20

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

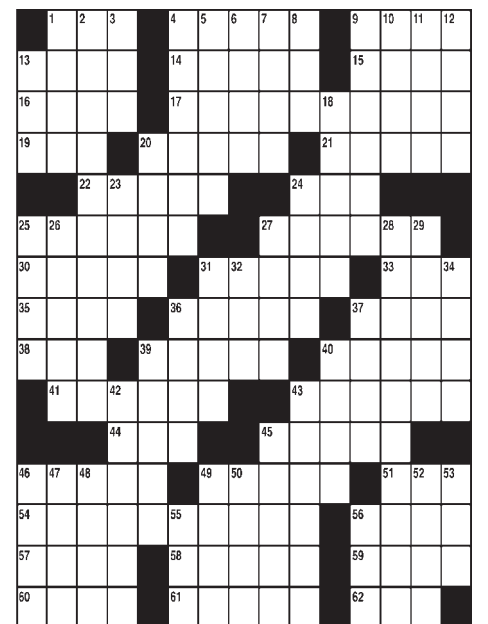
Saturday's puzzle answer

5	7	9	2	4	3	1	8	6
4	3	1	8	7	6	5	2	9
6	8	2	9	5	1	7	4	3
7	4	5	6	3	2	9	1	8
8	9	3	4	1	7	2	6	5
1	2	6	5	8	9	4	3	7
2	6	8	7	9	4	3	5	1
9	1	4	3	6	5	8	7	2
3	5	7	1	2	8	6	9	4

ACROSS

- Cry from the flock
- Thing worth having
- Buddy
- ___ with; become attached to
- Window covering
- Submarine sandwich
- Boycotts
- Songfests
- George Eads TV series
- Breezy
- Rattled
- Stable resident
- Part of every week; abbr.
- Piano style
- Ford and Close
- Steve or Marty
- Dinner course
- Stop ___ dime
- Bering & North
- Composer George M. ___
- "When You Wish Upon a ___"
- Panama or fedora
- Wide
- ___ with; make eyes at
- Fraud
- Worcestershire & others
- Phone inventor's initials
- ___ in; enter uninvited
- Pebble
- Rub enough to make sore
- As cool ___ cucumber
- Cave in
- Border on
- Work animals
- Walkways
- Run away
- Dinner drink
- Has a ___ tooth; loves desserts
- One of the Kennedys

- Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 5/20/19
- ## DOWN
- Deadly critters
 - Wipe out completely
 - Promos
 - Lend a hand
 - Glow
 - Beach surface
 - Not at ease
 - Pekoe or oolong
 - Poland's most famous composer
 - Egg producers
 - Strong desire
 - Lion's share
 - UK network
 - Enticed
 - Architect Christopher
 - Smallest bills
 - Caramel-topped custard
 - Girl Scout's accessory
 - Beg
 - Pleased
 - Obvious
 - Booby trap
 - Chimney flue coating
 - ___ moment; instant of realization



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

5/20/19

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

LAWN	SNIP	SLOP
USHER	TORO	HIVE
CHIDE	OVERCOMES	
YES	VAL	TRUANT
	PRICE	RUT
PLEASE	CAESAR	
EERIE	SPOIL	BUT
AVID	POINT	HOPE
KEN	SINGE	NAMED
EGGNOG	MOVIES	
	RAN	WIDEN
ESCAPE	ODD	ALS
COUNSELOR	ELBOW	
HORN	RINK	DELTA
ONLY	SEAS	TEST

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5/20/19

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 34 ___ and crafts | 47 Cab |
| 36 Baby's bed | 48 Ajar |
| 37 Punch | 49 Talon |
| 39 Father children | 50 Abhor |
| 40 Rider's payment | 52 Took to court |
| 42 Collie or coyote | 53 Dined |
| 43 Least risky | 55 Parcel delivery svc. |
| 45 Wash | 56 Toward a ship's rear |
| 46 Flat-bottomed boat | |

U.S. to roll out economic part of Mideast peace plan

By DEB RIECHMANN and MATTHEW LEE

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration will unveil the first phase of its long-awaited blueprint for Mideast peace next month at a conference in the region designed to highlight economic benefits that could be reaped if the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is resolved, the White House said Sunday.

The plan, which has been two years in the making, envisions large-scale investment and infrastructure work in the Palestinian territories. But the central political elements remain mostly unknown. And the economic workshop, June 25-26 in Bahrain, will not address the most contentious parts of the conflict: borders, the status of Jerusalem, Palestinian refugees and Israel's security.

In a joint statement with Bahrain, the White House said the workshop will give government, civil and business leaders a chance to gather support for economic initiatives that could be possible with a peace agreement.

The U.S. wants to ensure security for Israel and economic opportunity to improve the lives of Palestinians. The administration hopes that Arab countries will help bankroll economic incentives, such as infrastructure and industrial projects, to get Palestinians to buy into the plan. But with details of the political aspects of the plan still under wraps, any commitments for economic development won't be easily attained.

"The Palestinian people, along with all people in the Middle East, deserve a future with dignity and the opportunity to better their lives," President Donald Trump's senior adviser and son-in-law, Jared Kushner, said in a statement Sunday. "Economic progress can only be achieved with a solid economic vision and if the core political issues are



President Donald Trump's senior adviser, and son-in-law, Jared Kushner, departs the Capitol after a meeting with Senate Republicans, in Washington, Tuesday, May 14, 2019.

Associated Press

resolved."

Kushner and Jason Greenblatt, envoy of international negotiations, have been leading efforts to write the plan, but so far, there's been no participation from the Palestinians. The Palestinian Authority, which has complained that the White House favors Israel, severed ties with the Trump administration following several actions targeting them.

Trump closed the Palestinian diplomatic mission in Washington, saying the Palestinians refused to engage in peace talks with Israel. The U.S. stopped funding the U.N. agency that helps Palestinian refugees, slashing hundreds of millions of dollars in aid for projects in the West Bank and Gaza and cutting funding to

hospitals in Jerusalem that serve Palestinians. Trump also recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and moved the U.S. Embassy there from Tel Aviv.

The Palestinians' demand that Israel fully withdraw from all territories it occupies. Israel captured the West Bank, Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem in the 1967 Mideast war. The Palestinians want those territories for a future state. They also seek the right of refugees to return to the lands and the recognition of east Jerusalem as the capital of an independent Palestine. It's an open question as to whether the Palestinians will exchange some or all of their demands for the prospect of economic prosperity. □



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Obesity surgery benefits may be bigger for teens than adults

By **MARILYNN MARCHIONE**
AP Chief Medical Writer

Teens who have obesity surgery lose as much weight as those who have the operation as adults and are more likely to have it resolve other health problems such as diabetes and high blood pressure, a study finds.

The results suggest there's a benefit from not waiting to address obesity. Researchers say longer study is still needed to know lifetime effects of this radical surgery and that it's a personal decision whether and when to try it.

The study was published Thursday by the New England Journal of Medicine and presented at the Combating Childhood Obesity conference in Houston. The National Institutes of Health paid for it, and some researchers consult for makers of obesity surgery tools.

The damaging effects of obesity accumulate, and the risk of developing other diseases and dying prematurely rises the longer someone goes. Surgery is usually reserved for people who can't lose enough weight through other means — diet, exercise and sometimes medicines — and are severely obese.

Researchers led by Dr. Thomas Inge at the University of Colorado wanted to know whether it's better or safer to have it in mid-life, the most common time now, or sooner before many of those other health problems appear or do much harm.

They compared results from two studies of gastric bypass surgery, which creates a much smaller stomach pouch, in 161 teens and 396 adults who had



In this Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2015 file photo, Miranda Taylor, 20, poses for a portrait outside Christ College of Nursing and Health Science in Cincinnati.

Associated Press

been obese since they were teens. Five years after their operations, both groups had lost 26% to 29% of their weight.

Diabetes went into remission in 86% of teens and 53% of adults who had that disease before their operations; high blood pressure did the same in 68% of teens and 41% of adults. Some side effects were more common in teens, and they were twice as likely to need a second operation.

One troubling finding: Al-

though about 2 percent of each group died, two of the teens did so from drug overdoses, suggesting substance abuse and self-harm may be a concern.

Overall, the results are consistent with an earlier study comparing teens and adults, Ted Adams of the University of Utah in Salt Lake City wrote in a commentary in the journal.

"Almost 6% of adolescents in the United States are severely obese, and bariatric surgery is now the only successful, long-term treatment option" for them, he wrote.

Most obese teens stay obese as adults, and adults who were obese as teens have worse health than people who started to weigh too much at an older age, but that doesn't mean it's the right choice to have surgery earlier than later, he warned. □

AP EXPLAINS:



In this March 30, 2005 file photo, an Iranian security official in protective clothing walks through part of the Uranium Conversion Facility just outside the Iranian city of Isfahan.

Associated Press

Science of uranium enrichment amid Iran tension

By **MALCOLM RITTER**
AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Iran made a veiled threat this week to enrich uranium stocks closer to weapon-grade levels amid rising tensions in the region.

That would mean going beyond the level of potency allowed by the 2015 nuclear agreement with world powers, which the U.S. withdrew from last year. Tehran is threatening to resume higher enrichment on July 7 if no new agreement is reached to provide relief from U.S. sanctions.

Enriching a supply of uranium means boosting its concentration of the type of uranium that can power a nuclear reaction. That type, or isotope, is called U-235. Enrichment basically means stripping away atoms of another isotope, called U-238.

When uranium is mined, it typically has about 140 atoms of this unwanted isotope for every atom of U-235, notes Christopher Chyba of Princeton University. Refining it to a purity of 3.67%, the level now allowed by the nuclear deal, means removing 114 unwanted atoms of U-238 for every atom of U-235.

Boosting its purity to 20% means removing 22 more unwanted isotopes per

atom of U-235, while going from there to 90% purity means removing just four more per atom of U-235, he noted. Ninety percent is considered weapons-grade.

So once one achieves 20% purity on the way to 90%, "you're most of the way there already," Chyba said. Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei reportedly said Tuesday that achieving 20% "is the most difficult part ... The next steps are easier than this step." Iran is not known to have enriched beyond 20% previously.

Matthew Bunn at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government said the same centrifuge technology used to reach 3.67% can be used to drive enrichment to 90%.

Once Tehran had enough uranium enriched to 20%, it would only be weeks away from a bomb if it decided to build one, he said. A bomb's worth of highly enriched uranium "could be the size of a very large grapefruit," Bunn said.

Iran says it has never sought nuclear weapons. But Western officials and experts say that prior to the nuclear deal, Iran had a breakout capability of just a few months if it were to decide to build a bomb. □



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A newly restored 'The Shining' debuts in Cannes

By JAKE COYLE

AP Film Writer

CANNES, France (AP) — Thirty-nine years later, Jack is still not a dull boy. In a new pristine restoration, Stanley Kubrick's "The Shining" premiered at the Cannes Film Festival on Friday evening. It was the second straight year that a Kubrick movie landed on the Croisette, following last year when Christopher Nolan brought what he termed an "unrestored" cut of "2001: A Space Odyssey." This time around, Alfonso Cuarón introduced the film, alongside Kubrick's daughter, Katharina Kubrick, and Leon Vitali, Kubrick's long-time assistant. Vitali was himself profiled in the 2017 documentary "Filmworker," also a Cannes entry. "If anybody hasn't seen it on the screen before,

it's a different experience completely," Vitali told the crowd. "Don't worry, you'll all come out of here alive." Cuarón's presence in Cannes was notable. His film "Roma" was set to premiere at the French festival last year. But when Netflix and the festival couldn't agree on distribution terms for the streaming giant's films, Netflix pulled out of Cannes and "Roma" headed instead to the Venice Film Festival, where it won the Golden Lion prize. Cuarón didn't oversee "The Shining" restoration. That role went to Steven Spielberg, whose 2018 sci-fi thriller "Ready Player One" included a lengthy homage to "The Shining." But Cuarón lavished praise on "The Shining" while playfully prodding conspiracy theorists that dig into the film for

hidden meanings.

"Actually, tonight, we're going to watch it backwards, because backwards, we'll see it with the message Kubrick (intended)," joked Cuarón.

The 2012 documentary "Room 237" chronicled some of those theories, including that "The Shining" is really about the moon landing or about the treatment of Native Americans. Katharina Kubrick used an expletive to describe the guessing games around "The Shining."

"This is a seriously cool ghost movie. Don't believe any of the conspiracy theories because it's all s---," she said. "I only said that because I've had some champagne." Cuarón agreed. "Kubrick would have really gotten



Actor Leon Vitali, from left, Katharina Kubrick and producer Jan Harlan pose for photographers at the photo call for the film 'The Shining' at the 72nd international film festival, Cannes, southern France, Thursday, May 16, 2019.

Associated Press

a laugh out of all of these conspiracy theories," said the director. "By all reports, he believed in films not to be explained but to be ex-

perienced. A little bit like music, he used to say." "The Shining" restoration will be released on home video Oct. 1. □

Actor-comedian Sammy Shore, father of Pauly, dies at 92

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Sammy Shore, an actor and standup comedian who co-founded the Comedy Store, died Saturday. He was 92.

Through a spokeswoman, Shore's family said he died at his Las Vegas home surrounded by family. He was the father of actor-comedian Pauly Shore.

Shore's nearly seven-decade career stretched from the "Borscht Belt" summer resorts of New York's Catskill Mountains to Las Vegas to the studios of Hollywood.

Shore began his career doing standup with Sheeky Greene. Elvis Presley chose Shore as the opening act for his comeback tour, and the comedian opened for many others, including Tony Orlando, Barbra Streisand, Tony Bennett, Sammy Davis Jr., Tom Jones, Ann-Margret, Connie Stevens, Bobby Darin, and Glen Campbell.

In 1972, Shore, his first wife Mitzi and writing partner Rudy Deluca founded the



This Feb. 7, 2017 photo provided by Suzanne Shore shows her husband, Sammy Shore.

Associated Press

world-famous Los Angeles comedy club, the Comedy Store. Pauly Shore, with whom he toured during the past 20 years, paid tribute Saturday to his father on Twitter. "Dad, you lived an amazing life and I'm so proud to say that you are my father," he wrote. "When you're in heaven I'll be killing the crowds night after night and carrying on your legacy. Love you Dad. Rest in peace." □

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'John Wick 3' dethrones 'Avengers: Endgame' with \$57 million

By LINDSEY BAHR

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The box office has a new king and his name is John Wick. The third installment of the hyper violent Keanu Reeves franchise has taken the top spot at the North American box office and ended the three-week reign of "Avengers: Endgame." Studios on Sunday say "John Wick: Chapter 3 — Parabellum" has grossed an estimated \$57 million in

its opening weekend. Not only did it far exceed expectations, it's a franchise best that nearly doubled the opening of the second film, which itself doubled the opening of the first film from 2014. The audience, in other words, is growing exponentially for this series about a talented assassin who never seems to get a break. This time, there's a \$14 million price tag on his head.



This image released by Lionsgate shows Keanu Reeves in a scene from "John Wick: Chapter 3 - Parabellum."

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PARABELLUM

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PH	MON-THU 5:25	8:20
	FRI 5:25	8:20 10:50
VIP	SAT 2:30	5:25 8:20 10:50
	SUN 2:30	5:25 8:20

CXC	MON-THU 4:50	7:40
	FRI 4:50	7:40 10:30
PBP	SAT 2:00	4:50 7:40 10:30
	SUN 2:00	4:50 7:40

PBP	MON-FRI 3:50	6:20 9:10
VIP	SAT-SUN 3:30	6:20 9:10

DENNIS QUAIL | KATHRYN PRESCOTT

A DOG'S JOURNEY

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH	MON-THU 4:10	6:35	9:00
	FRI 4:10	6:35	9:00 11:25
	SAT 1:45	4:10	6:35 9:00 11:25
	SUN 1:45	4:10	6:35 9:00

PBP	MON-SUN 6:05	8:30
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	MON-THU 5:00	7:30
	FRI 5:00	7:30 10:00
	SAT 2:30	5:00 7:30 10:00
	SUN 2:30	5:00 7:30

YARA SHAHIDI | CHARLES MELTON

THE SUN IS ALSO A STAR

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH	MON-THU 4:40	7:00	9:20
	FRI 4:40	7:00	9:20 11:40
VIP	SAT 2:20	4:40	7:00 9:20 11:40
	SUN 2:20	4:40	7:00 9:20

PBP	MON-THU 3:50	6:10	8:30
	FRI 3:50	6:10	8:30 10:50
	SAT 1:30	3:50	6:10 8:30 10:50
	SUN 1:30	3:50	6:10 8:30

RYAN REYNOLDS | JUSTICE SMITH

POKÉMON DETECTIVE PIKACHU

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH	MON-THU 5:50	8:15
	FRI 5:50	8:15 10:30
	SAT 1:00	3:25 5:50 8:15 10:30
	SUN 1:00	3:25 5:50 8:15

PBP	MON-THU 5:30	7:50
	FRI 5:30	7:50 10:10
	SAT 12:50	3:10 5:30 7:50 10:10
	SUN 12:50	3:10 5:30 7:50

PBP	MON-FRI 4:00	6:20
VIP	SAT-SUN 1:40	4:00 6:20

ROBERT DOWNEY JR. | CHRIS EVANS

AVENGERS ENDGAME

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH	MON-FRI 4:35	8:20
	SAT-SUN 12:50	4:35 8:20

PBP	MON-SUN 8:40
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VIP	MON-SUN 3:45	7:30
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KELLY CLARKSON | NICK JONAS

UGLYDOLLS

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PBP	MON-FRI 4:05	
	SAT-SUN 2:05	4:05

ANNE HATHAWAY | REBEL WILSON

THE HUSTLE

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH	MON-THU 5:00	7:15	9:30
	FRI 5:00	7:15	9:30 11:45
	SAT 2:45	5:00	7:15 9:30 11:45
	SUN 2:45	5:00	7:15 9:30

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Men made up the majority (63 of the "John Wick 3" opening weekend crowd. Overall audiences gave the film a rare A+ CinemaScore, indicating that word-of-mouth will be strong in subsequent weekends. According to Comscore's PostTrak audience survey, 70% said they would "definitely recommend" to their friends and 21% said they would see it again in theaters. "This is the best reviewed film of the series so far," said Joe Drake, chairman of the Lionsgate Motion Picture Group, in a statement. "We believe word-of-mouth will continue to drive strong business for the film all over the world." Internationally "John Wick 3" earned \$35.2 million from 66 territories. "Avengers: Endgame" slid to second place in its fourth weekend with \$29.4 million. Domestically, where the film has grossed \$711 million, it's now second only to "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" (\$937 million) and globally, with \$2.6 billion, it's still second to "Avatar" (\$2.8 billion). In its second weekend, "Pokémon Detective Pikachu" also continued to do well, placing third with \$24.8 million. But with the high-performing trifecta of John Wick, the Avengers

and Pikachu, there weren't very many moviegoers left over for the less flashy newcomers like "A Dog's Journey" and "The Sun Is Also a Star." "The marketplace was so dominated by 'John Wick,'" said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore. "It's tough when one movie over performs by this kind of magnitude." Amblin Entertainment and Reliance Entertainment's "A Dog's Journey" opened in fourth with an underwhelming \$8 million. The Universal-distributed film is a sequel to the 2017 hit "A Dog's Purpose." But unlike John Wick, the audience for this sequel was less than half of that for the first, which opened to \$18.2 million. But audiences who did turn out gave it an A CinemaScore, which could point toward long-term playability. Most disappointing, however, is the young adult adaptation "The Sun Is Also a Star" which grossed only \$2.6 million from over 2,000 screens and landed in eighth place. Although modestly budgeted at a reported \$9 million, and featuring popular television actors such as "Riverdale's" Charles Melton and "grown-ish's" Yara Shahidi, the Warner Bros.-released film failed to connect even with the audiences who

turned out, 75% of whom were women. It got a poor B- CinemaScore. It's a far cry from the days of "The Fault in Our Stars" \$48 million debut in 2014, and even the last film based on a Nicola Yoon novel, "Everything, Everything," which opened to over \$11 million in 2017. "As unpredictable and fickle as young adults are, so are the performances of films that target that audience," Dergarabedian said. In limited release, Joanna Hogg's well-reviewed relationship drama "The Souvenir" did well with \$85,851 from four screens. Even with the success of "John Wick," the weekend itself was down about 31% and the year to date is still down around 9%, but, Dergarabedian said that this is the calm before the storm. In the next few weekends theaters will see an influx of could-be hits such as "Rocketman," "Aladdin" and "Godzilla: King of the Monsters." Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday. □

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James Gunn says he's a better person after being fired

By MIKE CIDONI LENNOX
AP Entertainment Reporter
LOS ANGELES (AP) —

It's been a roller-coaster year for James Gunn, who was fired from "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3" over old tweets in July, and rehired this March. But the writer-director who shepherded the first two "Guardians" films to critical and box office success said the experience has been an educational one.

"I'm a better person than I was a year ago," Gunn told The Associated Press on Saturday. "It's made me more creative and focused on the things that really matter to me, which are my friends, my relationships and the movies that I'm making."

Although even after his firing, Gunn didn't exactly have a fallow period as he was hired fairly soon by Marvel's rival to work on the sequel to "Suicide Squad." Now, Gunn is fully back in

the public eye promoting the horror film "Brightburn," which he produced, and resuming work on the third "Guardians" movie.

The ordeal has made him thankful for his friends who have supported him throughout. Actress Elizabeth Banks, who stars in "Brightburn," is one of those in the circle of people he can go to.

"There's a lot of things that people talk about Hollywood-cutthroat this and Hollywood-bad that and all the things that are terrible about Hollywood. But the truth is ... I have one really good gift ... I'm attracted to really good people and I have chosen to put wonderful people around me, whether it's the actors I work with, the crew members I work with, my, you know, the writers I would deal with, the studio people I deal with," Gunn said. "There's a lot of really good people in this industry."

The 52-year-old found himself under intense scrutiny last year when tweets from nearly a decade ago in which he joked about subjects such as pedophilia and rape resurfaced because of far-right propagandists Mike Cernovich and Jack Posobiec after Gunn was critical of President Donald Trump. Gunn apologized for his tweets, but Walt Disney Co. chairman Alan Horn said that they were inconsistent with the studio's values.

Both fans and his cast including Chris Pratt, Bradley Cooper, Zoe Saldana, Vin Diesel and other stars rallied behind him in the wake of the firing last July.

"Although I don't support James Gunn's inappropriate jokes from years ago, he is a good man," Pratt said.

But it was still somewhat surprising that Disney backtracked and this March announced that Gunn had



In this June 25, 2018 file photo writer-director James Gunn attends the premiere of "Ant-Man and the Wasp" in Los Angeles. Associated Press

been reinstated as the writer and director of "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3." Marvel Studios President Kevin Feige told the AP last month that he was glad it happened.

"It was the right thing," Feige said. "It was something that Alan Horn at Disney really believed was the right

thing to do."

The "Guardians" cast was similarly pleased.

"It's awesome. I'm really, really, really happy," "Guardians" actress Pom Klementieff said at the premiere of "Avengers: Endgame" in April. "He's an amazing human being, and he's the best director." □

Blame it on Bieber: Iceland canyon too popular with visitors

By EGILL BJARNASON

Associated Press

FJADRÁRGLJÚFUR, Iceland

(AP) — A large sign warns motorists that Iceland's Fjadrárgljúfur canyon is closed to visitors but drivers keep on coming down the narrow gravel road. A ranger at a roadblock has to explain why no one can pass: The vulnerable landscape cannot sustain more visitors.

Blame Justin Bieber, the Canadian pop star with a worldwide reach.

Bieber's magical music video "I'll Show You" was filmed at the canyon and seen by millions, creating overwhelming demand for the once-pristine spot. For a chance to follow in Bieber's footsteps, his fans are not letting a few fences, signs or park rangers keep them away.

Eager visitors try to sweet-talk ranger Hanna Jóhannsdóttir into opening the gate. Some offer bribes. They should know in advance it's not going to work.

"Food from people's home country is the most common bribery," said Jóhannsdóttir, who recently turned down a free trip to Dubai in exchange for looking the other way at trespassers.

The Bieber-inspired influx is one part of a larger challenge for Iceland — the North Atlantic island nation may be too spectacular and too popular for its own good.

Last year 2.3 million tourists visited Iceland, compared with just 600,000 eight years ago. The 20% annual uptick in visitors has been out of proportion with infrastructure that is needed to protect Iceland's volcanic landscape, where soil forms slowly and erodes quickly. Environment Minister Gudmundur Ingi Gudbrandsson said it is "a bit too simplistic to blame the entire situation on Justin Bieber" but urged famous, influential visitors to consider the consequences of their actions.

"Rash behavior by one famous person can dramatically impact an entire area if the mass follows," he told The Associated Press.



This photo taken Wednesday, May 1, 2019, shows a cliff at the Fjadrárgljúfur canyon in southeastern Iceland.

Associated Press

Bieber has the third-largest Twitter account at over 105 million followers, after Katy Perry and Barack Obama, according to friendorfollow.com — and he has over 112 million followers on Instagram.

In the viral video — watched over 440 million times on YouTube since 2015 — Bieber stomped on mossy vegetation, dangled his feet over a cliff and bathed in the freezing river underneath the sheer walls of the canyon.

"In Justin Bieber's defense, the canyon did not, at the time he visited, have rope fences and designated paths to show what was allowed and what not," Gudbrandsson said.

Over 1 million people have visited the area since the release of the video, the Environment Agency of Iceland estimates, leaving deep scars on its vegetation. After remaining closed for all but five weeks this year, it is expected to reopen again this summer

only if weather conditions are dry.

Icelanders are reluctant to fault the pop star, who enjoys enormous support on the island. About 12% of Iceland's entire population — 38,000 people — attended his two concerts in Reykjavík, the capital, a year after the video was released. Locals underestimated the canyon's potential as a major attraction because it's relatively small compared to those formed by the country's powerful gla-

cier rivers. But unlike others, it is easily accessed and requires less than a kilometer (0.6 mile) of trekking.

The selfies and drone images have stopped — for now — but more exposure is coming. The latest season of the popular HBO drama "Game of Thrones" features scenes filmed at the canyon. The nearby Skógar waterfall and the Svínafells glacier are also backdrops in the fictional Thrones world of warriors and dragons.

Inga Palsdóttir, director of the national tourism agency Visit Iceland, said a single film shot or a viral photograph has often put overlooked places on the map.

The most extreme example, she said, is the Douglas DC-3 U.S. Navy plane that crashed on the black sand beach at Sólheimasandur in 1973. The seven Americans on board all survived but the plane wreck was never removed.

"Then someone decided to dance on it and now it's one of the most popular places in the country," said Palsdóttir.

On a foggy Wednesday morning, ranger Jóhannsdóttir observed fresh footprints on the muddy pathway to the Fjadrárgljúfur canyon, indicating that someone had jumped the fence overnight.

She predicted that more people would trespass that afternoon when she left the roadblock to give a presentation at a community center. She was right. Less than 30 minutes passed before tourists began ignoring the fences and signs.

"We came because of Justin Timberlake," said Mikhail Samarin, a tourist from Russia, traveling with Nadia Kazachenok and Elena Malteseva, who were quick to correct the artist's last name to Bieber.

"It was so amazing," said Malteseva about the Bieber video. "After that, we decided it was necessary to visit this place."

The three took turns posing for a photograph, standing at the edge of an Icelandic cliff. □



In this photo taken Wednesday, May 1, 2019, Hanna Jóhannsdóttir, a ranger from The Environment Agency of Iceland, poses for a photograph at the mouth of the Fjadrárgljúfur canyon.

Associated Press